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Glorybringer Wedding

***Note, in this story, Starflight is not blind.**

Glory smiled at herself in the mirror. She had tried to keep her scales a light violet, but swirls and stripes of happy yellow kept sneaking in. She tried to stop it, but it was impossible with her heart beating this fast. Today was her wedding day after all. Today she would marry Deathbringer. Behind Glory stood Kinkajou, Tsunami, and Sunny. Her flower girl and two of her bridesmaids. Kinkajou was a blinding yellow and was bouncing up and down out of excitement. Sunny was grinning from ear to ear and Tsunami was giving Glory the occasional jealous glare, but deep down, she was happy for her. Suddenly, Fatespeaker, the third bridesmaid, came into the room.

"They're ready to start,"she told them. The girls nodded.

"Come on," Tsunami said to the other girls. "Let's leave Glory to practice her Blaze impression in the mirror." Glory whacked her on the snout as they laughed. Then the other girls left the room, leaving Glory alone. She stared at herself for a moment. Then she took a deep breath and changed the color of her scales to a light, rosy pink. With that, she left the room.

The other girls gasped as Glory walked in. Kinkajou's jaw hit the floor and Tsunami's eyes widened.

"What?" Glory asked.

"You're...pink!" Kinkajou cried.

"You're beautiful." Sunny whispered. Fatespeaker nodded vigorously.

"I am not, and I don't want any protests." Glory said. They nodded and together they walked toward the wedding.

Starflight stood at the front of the room, as he was to marry them.

Deathbringer stood near him, with Clay by his side, as he was the best man. That's where they were when the girls entered. As they caught sight of Glory, their mouths dropped open. Unsurprisingly, Deathbringer still managed to look smugger then he had in his whole life, even with his jaw dropped. Starflight and Clay exchanged a glance. They had known Glory her entire life but they had never seen her look so pretty.

Clay realized that their mouths were still open, and he sprung into action. With one hand, he closed his own mouth, shutting Deathbringer's with the other. At the same time, his tail swung around and closed Starflight's. The girls tried not to laugh at them.

Deathbringer stared at Glory. She was beautiful, but to Deathbringer, even gorgeous would be an understatement. She was stunning. It was only as she took his talon that he realized exactly what was happening today. He was about to marry the most beautiful, fascinating, wonderful, and sarcastic dragon in all of Pyrrhia. His smug grin grew.

"Don't give me that smug face,"Glory said to him as she took his talon. "And don't tell me it's not your smug face because I know it is."

"Oh, Glory," Deathbringer said affectionately. "It's always been my smug face."

The Dragonet

Glory sat in a small clearing in the rainforest. She stared at the small egg in front of her. It was black with swirls of color along the shell. If she looked closely, she could almost see the shape of a dragonet inside. A dragonet that was to hatch soon. A dragonet whose father didn't even know about it. *Glory's* dragonet. She didn't really know why she hadn't told Deathbringer yet. He deserved to know and she wanted to tell him. But she was also afraid. They'd never discussed having dragonets before, and she didn't know if Deathbringer even wanted one. So it was out of her own selfish fear that she kept the egg hidden away in the forest, where no one would find it.

"You need to tell him," Jambu said suddenly, breaking the silence.

Well, *almost* no one.

Jambu had secretly followed Glory to her hiding place and had spotted the egg. Glory had sworn him to secrecy, of course. And, even though she'd never admit it, he'd been helpful. It was hard to focus on the rest of the world when you were constantly worrying about a dragonet egg that you'd left all alone. It was easier when you could have someone watch over it. Someone like Jambu. Glory sighed.

"I know," she responded.

"Then why don't you?"

"Because it's not that simple." Jambu looked at her skeptically, but it was difficult to take him seriously when he was pink as always.

"It's pretty simple." he replied. Glory groaned. Nothing was ever simple. "It's not fair to him if you keep it to yourself. And I think he'll take it a lot better if you tell him *before* the egg hatches."

"I know that." Glory snapped. "But that doesn't make it any easier to say." Jambu thought for a moment and a grin grew on his face. A grin that made her very uneasy.

"I'll tell you what." he said, attempting - and failing - to sound threatening. "If you don't tell him by the end of the week, *I* will." Glory's eyes widened. She could already see the hundreds of ways that would end horribly.

"Alright," she agreed, swallowing the lump in her throat. "I'll tell him." she insisted, carefully putting the egg in a group of bushes.

The next day....

She was nervous. That's the first thing Deathbringer noticed when Glory entered the room. Her tail was wrapped tightly around her leg and she was unconsciously wringing out her talons. So, naturally, he had to know what was wrong.

"What's wrong?" he questioned, noting how her eyes widened at his question.

"Nothing." she insisted hastily. "Nothing's wrong at all." Deathbringer raised his eyebrows. Glory was a good liar, but not to him. Something was up.

"Something must be," he persisted. "you're nervous, green, and lying to me." Immediately, she changed her scales to a light purple. She hesitated for a moment, as if she didn't want to say anything.

"I - "she tried. "I.....You - um.....oh, I'll just show you." she sputtered, giving up and flying away. Deathbringer followed curiously.

They landed in a small clearing, a tree surrounded by thick bushes as the only thing in it.

"What is it?" Deathbringer asked again. His curiosity was building and the things he imagined she'd say weren't very cheerful. Glory took a deep breath, wondering where to begin. Not knowing what to say, she simply pulled back the bushes, revealing the egg. Deathbringer stared at it, memorizing every detail. He glanced back

and forth between it and Glory, completely speechless. Finally, he cleared his throat and spoke.

"That's a - I mean, is - Is it -" he rambled, tensing up.

"It's mine." Glory said softly.

"Yours and - and " he continued. Glory stared at him nervously as he closed his eyes, calming himself. "Is it mine?"he asked cautiously. Glory's nerves and fear faded away instantly into a flash of anger.

"Of course it's yours!"she insisted. His shoulders relaxed in relief. Then it hit him.

That was a dragonet.

His dragonet.

His and Glory's dragonet.

A smug grin spread across his face and he laughed. Glory frowned at him, but was relieved to see that he wasn't mad. Deathbringer grabbed her and picked her up, spinning her around in a circle. She shrieked and laughed with him. Finally, he set her down and kissed her. She could still taste the laughter on his lips.

"We're going to have a dragonet!"he cried, practically bouncing in a very un-Deathbringer-like way. His happiness was contagious. Glory's scales refused to listen to her and burst out a bright yellow with pink swimming through it. She put a talon over her mouth to hide her smile as Deathbringer danced around her. His grin never dulled for a second, growing as wide as it could.

"We're gonna be parents!" he laughed. He glowed brighter than Rainwings. Suddenly, he stopped bouncing, staring at Glory with wide eyes. "We're going to be *parents*." he repeated in disbelief. "Oh my moons, how do we do this?" he asked, as worry overtook him. "I don't know anything about dragonets. And by all the knives, they're so *tiny*. How are we supposed to take care of something that small?"He stared at the ground and pressed his talons to his temples, thinking. Glory put a talon on his chin and tilted his head up so that he looked at her.

"We'll be fine."she insisted. "We'll figure out." He smiled and took her talons in his.

"Alright," he agreed. He thought for a moment and started to laugh again.

"What?"

"I'm just imagining how my mother would react to this!" he said hysterically. Glory shook her head. She walked over and sat down by the egg, curling her tail around it. Deathbringer sat on the other side of the egg, staring at it fondly. Gently, he touched his talon to it as Glory leaned into him.

"Glory?" he said finally.

"Yes?"she responded sleepily.

"I love you." Glory smiled and closed her eyes. As she drifted off to sleep under Deathbringer's wing, she thought she heard him whisper something to the egg.

"I'm gonna love you too little one."

Telling the Dragonets of Destiny

It hadn't been that long since Glory told Deathbringer that she realized she should probably tell the other Dragonets. But they were pretty difficult to get ahold of, seeing as they were spread out all over Pyrrhia now. In the past couple of years, Clay and Peril, Starflight and Fatespeaker, and -despite her mother's wishes- Tsunami and Riptide had all gotten married.

Sunny lived in the Sandwing stronghold, of course, and Starflight lived in the rainforest, but Tsunami lived in the sea kingdom and Clay lived somewhere on the border of Mudwing - Skywing territory.

The only place they really all met up was at Jade Mountain. The school was on a summer break so it would be empty. That's where Glory decided she'd meet them as she sent their letters out.

Jade Mountain.....

Clay, Tsunami, Glory, Starflight, and Sunny laid in a row at the entrance to the school, watching the skies and chatting occasionally. Deathbringer was flying around the mountain, surveying until Glory broke the news.

"But how will you know when I've told them?" Glory had argued back in the rainforest. Deathbringer had given her one of his signature smug grins.

"Trust me, I'll know. Either from screaming or from one of them flying at me ready to kill." he joked. Glory shook her head. And even though she'd had plenty of time to think of a way to tell them, she couldn't find a good way. She din't just want to randomly yell "I'm having Deathbringer's dragonet" and watch their reactions - Well, she kind of wanted to see their reactions. Finally, an idea

struck her.

"You know,"she began "I fit into a lot of categories."

"What do you mean?" Clay asked.

"Well, I'm a Rainwing, a Queen, a Dragonet of Destiny, A wife,"

"An annoying sarcastic dragon." Tsunami offered.

"A magical death spit provider," Sunny supplied. Glory smiled.

"See? It's a lot of categories. And in a few months, I'll add another one to the list." she observed.

"And what's that?" Starflight asked curiously. Glory bit back a grin.

"Mother." she answered. Their reaction was so priceless she wished she could save it forever. Tsunami's jaw dropped and Starflight froze. Sunny screamed and barreled into Glory, hugging her as she yelled with excitement and jumped up and down. Starflight stared at him, looking as if she'd told her she was secretly a scavenger in disguise. Tsunami opened and closed her mouth, speechless in shock. But Clay's reaction was the best. He'd nodded when Glory answered and dismissed it, but a minute later, as Sunny screamed, he caught on.

"*WHAT!!!!!!!!!*" he roared so loud Glory wouldn't have been surprised to learn that Queen Glacier herself had heard him. Tsunami reclaimed her voice finally.

"You-and - and Deathbringer?!?!?!"she said in shock. Glory nodded. Sunny squealed and melted to the floor with happiness.

"I love this I love this I LOVE this!"she exclaimed. After hearing Clay's shout and Sunny's scream, Deathbringer assumed they knew and landed beside them. Clay stared at him, not knowing whether to kill him or congratulate him. Tsunami, on the other talon, had already made that choice.

"You die now." she snarled, running at him.

"Hey!" Glory yelled in fury. Tsunami ran at him, but was tackled out of the way by Sunny.

"DON'T YOU DARE SINK MY SHIP!!!" she screamed at Tsunami, who was still in shock that Sunny had overtaken her. "IT'S SAILING INTO HAPPILY EVER AFTER AND I WILL KILL YOU RATHER THAN LET IT BE HARMED!" Glory burst out laughing. Starflight and Clay stared blankly, still trying to comprehend this news. Deathbringer glanced around the scene and slid next to Glory, wrapping his wing around her.

"So," he asked, genuinely curious. "How'd they take it?"

The Rumor

There are many stereotypes about the tribes in Pyrrhia and many about Rainwings in particular, but Glory thought that one stereotype about Rainwings that would be entirely correct was that they were the biggest gossips in the world. If there was a rumor, these dragons went crazy until they knew all the details.

Most dragons in Pyrrhia didn't know that Glory and Deathbringer were married. In fact, the only ones who knew were Clay, Tsunami, Starflight, Sunny, Peril, Riptide, Fatespeaker, Mangrove, Orchid, Jambu, Kinkajou, Granduer, and Glory and Deathbringer themselves. So, it was a very big news when a rumor got out that Queen Glory was expecting a dragonet. Glory had no idea how that rumor had begun, but it was out and now it was only a matter of time before everyone knew that the Rainwing/Nightwing Queen had married a Nightwing. The entire rainforest was bursting with the news of the dragonet, but they didn't know if it was true. So, one day, they decided to ask.

Glory was walking to the royal pavilion to begin the day when she noticed all the whispers and felt as if every eye was on her. She stopped abruptly and behind her, Deathbringer did the same to avoid knocking into her. She thought for a moment and then turned toward the village. Every dragon froze and immediately went into camouflage. Glory shot the invisible dragons a look, shook her head, and continued walking. The whispers picked back up instantly. Once at the pavilion, Glory sat down at the throne and laughed. Deathbringer grinned beside her.

"You're quite intimidating apparently," he noted. She laughed harder.

It was towards sun time that a commotion began outside the pavilion. Glory walked out to see what was going on, and found a dragon being pinned to the floor, surrounded by other Rainwings. At the sight of the queen, the Rainwings turned pink with

embarrassment and fled, leaving the formerly pinned one alone. It was a younger dragon, but not a dragonet.

"Did you have a question?" Glory asked. She nodded.

"Well, You see your Majesty, I have a question, but the others think it improper to ask." the dragon stuttered. Glory motioned for her to continue, her curiosity growing. "Well, we were wondering, cause there was a rumor going around and we weren't sure, so I just wanted to ask so you could set it straight. Um...." she trailed off.

"What is it?" Glory asked.

"Is it true you're expecting a dragonet?" she blurted. Glory blinked, keeping her scales from showing any emotion. Beside her, Deathbringer froze.

"Yes, as a matter of fact, I am." Glory stated. The Rainwing's jaw dropped.

"But - but- you - Who's the father?" she sputtered. Glory grinned.

"That's for me to know, and you to find out." she replied. The dragon nodded with wide eyes and walked off, trying to comprehend what she'd been told.

"Well, this should be interesting." Deathbringer said smugly. Glory grinned.

"Let's see how many of them actually figure it out."

Over the next few weeks, the rainforest - and the rest of the continent - buzzed with the news, speculating who the father of Glory's dragonet was. After days of constant questioning, Glory gave them a clue.

"It's not a rainwing." she said vaguely. That launched into even more rumors and gossip. Jambu was listening to the more popular rumors and passing them along to Glory for fun. She and Deathbringer often would laugh over them when they went to check on the egg. It was the only thing anyone would talk about and Deathbringer slowly found it becoming more difficult to keep a

straight face as the questions grew more complex.

One week, Glory went to the Sand Kingdom to meet with Thorn. During meals, Glory would eat with Thorn and Sunny but Deathbringer and the other guards would eat with the servants and Queen Thorn's guards. Even down there, the rumor is all they would talk about. Deathbringer found himself being questioned by Sandwings along with the other Rainwings, the two tribes hoping to trade theories back and forth. After one meal, Deathbringer went back up to Glory's room and when she opened the door, he burst in, shut it behind her and started to laugh. Glory had to wait ten minutes of him laughing before he could control himself enough to tell her what had happened.

"They were bombarding me with questions!"he laughed. "It was hilarious and oh my moons, I don't know how I kept a straight face. It was everything from 'could the father be an Icewing?' to 'I wonder if the egg has purple polka dots!'" By then, he and Glory were rolling on the floor with laughter.

"When are you going to tell them?" Deathbringer questioned suddenly. Glory stopped laughing and thought for a moment.

"I was thinking of telling them when I introduce the dragonet to the tribes. Just bring out the dragonet with you and watch them freak out," she replied. Deathbringer pictured the rainwings freaking over how taboo this was and started laughing again. Glory was quick to follow suite and soon she was laughing into Deathbringer's chest as he wrapped his wings around her.

"It's going to be quite the adventure," he predicted, kissing her gently. Glory smiled and kissed him.

"It's going to be wonderful," she insisted.

A/N: I need a name

Hello fellow dragon lovers!

I need your help.

I want to continue this story but I don't have a name for Glory and Deathbringer's dragonet. Well, I do, but it's not very good and people tend to not like it, so I'm looking for a better one.

I will give full credit and dedicate the next part to the person who's name I use.

And as much as I hate to spoil where I'm taking the story, I figure you're probably going to need to know a little bit about the dragonet in order to suggest a name. So,

It's a male dragonet that resembles a Nightwing more than a Rainwing.

I would prefer a Nightwing name for him, but if I get a Rainwing one that I like better, then I'll change things up a bit and use that name instead.

PLEASE COMMENT A NAME!!!!

Trust me, ever if you think it's the worst name in the world, it's probably still going to be better than the name I'll use if I don't get any suggestions.

And, in case you were wondering, if I don't get a better suggestion, then the dragonet's name will be Darkcolor.

I know. It's awful, but I just thought of it and it stuck.

So, if you hate that name, COMMENT ANOTHER ONE!

Give me as many as you like!

It could even be one of your own OC's names!

I'll accept anything!

The Hatching

A/N: Thanks to GlorybringerRulesAll for giving me the name idea!

It was a dreary day. Of course it was. Glory, like most dragon mothers, had almost a sixth sense that enabled them to know when their egg would hatch. And Glory knew it would be today. Today, of course, happened to be the most gray-skied, misty, clouded, stay-in-doors-and-sleep-all-day day that she had ever experienced in the rainforest. She was almost positive that if Sunny were here, the little Sandwing would be freaking out, claiming that the bad weather was an omen or something. But Glory didn't think so. Nothing was a bad sign today. And nothing could be wrong with the egg, because inside was Glory and Deathbringer's dragonet. And it would be perfect. No matter what.

Deathbringer was considering panicking. Today, at some point, he would become a father. He was absolutely terrified. But he wasn't sure what scared him more- the Nightwings' reaction to finding out that he slept with Queen Glory and had no regrets, or the actual dragonet itself. Either way, terrifying. But he was also excited. He was going to be a father! He could teach this little dragonet everything. Sure, there were some things Glory was sure to never let him teach their dragonets, but he'd do it anyways. And besides, what was so bad about teaching a little dragonet how to properly and quietly slit a dragon's throat? It occurred to him that this may be the exact train of thought Glory worried about. Oh well.

Throughout the day, the weather only got worse. It grew foggy and humid. The day would've been much better if it would just hurry up and rain. But it refused. It was as if the sky itself was waiting. Just like Glory and Deathbringer. No sane dragon willingly got out of bed on a day like this so there wasn't anything for Glory to do. And that was fine with her. She and Deathbringer snuck off to the egg to wait the day away. As sunset approached, the egg began to wobble,

and a small crack appeared in it. But when nothing else happened, the two impatient parents slumped back down against the tree.

Inside the egg, a small dragonet was awake. He didn't know where he was, or, anything really, but he could sense things. Outside of his small prison were two dragons. He didn't know who they were, but he liked them already. One, he could tell, was warm. The other, anxious. They were waiting for him. The warm dragon appeared to be cold on the outside, but he saw right through it. She wanted nothing more then to hug him close and curl up next to the other dragon. That dragon, the anxious one, was colder, but he could tell that this dragon's heart beat for one reason and one reason only- the warm dragon. The dragon's life was devoted to her, and he was going to be devoted to the little dragonet too. The two waited, nervously, impatiently, and excitedly all at the same time. They wanted to meet him. And the little dragonet wanted to meet them too. He wanted to curl right up in that warm dragon's arms. So, he decided to break out of his prison.

It was just after nightfall when another crack appeared in the egg. Deathbringer stared as it wobbled and realized this was it. He turned his head slightly, to where Glory had fallen asleep on his shoulder. He attempted to shake her awake, but it was no use. Once that dragon was asleep, there was no getting her up.

"Glory," he whispered, not knowing why he was whispering. "Glory....*Glory!* It's hatching!" Immediately, Glory snapped awake and glanced at the egg. She grabbed Deathbringer's talon and they watched as more cracks appeared in the egg.

Finally, the egg toppled over, and the top broke off as a small dragonet fell out with a small squeak.

Glory gasped at the small dragonet and the two parents immediately took in every scale on the little thing. "

It's a boy." Deathbringer said in shock. He laughed.

A son. he thought as realization hit him.

I have a son. Me. Of all dragons. I have a son.

It almost seemed to good to be true. But it was real. The little dragonet climbed awkwardly out of the egg and attempted to stand up. He wavered on his talons and fell backwards - right back into the shell. It toppled upright again, and the little dragonet popped up with a yelp. A small piece of the shell was balancing on his head. Glory chuckled and extended one of her talons towards him.

"Come here, little one," she said softly. The dragonet squeaked happily and clambered into Glory's claws.

She held the dragonet close to her, and Deathbringer leaned over her to look at him. He had the build of a Rainwing, but his scales were black like a Nightwings'. He had bright green eyes like Glory's, but he looked incredibly like Deathbringer. They had seen earlier that he had Rainwing scales underneath his wings instead of a star-pattern like most Nightwings. He was perfect, they decided.

"What should we call him?" Deathbringer asked, letting the small dragonet wrap his claws around one of Deathbringer's talons. As Glory thought, an odd coincidence occurred. The little dragon let out another squeak and pointed up at the sky- just as rain began to fall. That gave Glory an idea.

"What about Rainkeeper?" she suggested. Deathbringer smiled. He couldn't remember a time when he'd been this happy before. Here he was, married to the most beautiful, and fascinating dragon in the world, with his *son* gripping one of his talons. Finally he spoke.

"Perfect."

The family stayed there for the rest of the night. Little Rainkeeper, as he had been named, curled up in Glory's arms and fell asleep. Glory was quick to follow, leaning into Deathbringer as he wrapped one wing around her. For a while, Deathbringer stayed awake, Rainkeeper's claw still clinging to his talon as he slept. But eventually, he, too, fell asleep listening to the rain his son had been named after.

Meet Rainkeeper

A/N: Disclaimer! Wings of Fire belongs to the amazing Tui T. Sutherland and Rainkeeper's name belongs to GlorybringerRulesAll. But the plot and Glory and Deathbringer's dragonets, belong to moi.

Glory and Deathbringer sat and admired their little dragonet in a rainforest hut. Somehow, they had made it back to the village without being spotted.

"It's almost scary how much he looks like me," Deathbringer noted. Glory smiled.

"Well, he better not act like you. I don't think I could handle two Deathbringers." she retorted. He laughed and Rainkeeper looked at them and tilted his head. "We have to introduce him to the tribes. They have to know that there's a prince." she added, tickling the small dragonet. He giggled so much that Deathbringer had to crack a grin.

"Once they meet him though, we have to reveal that we got married." he pointed out. Glory smiled.

"I wonder how many of the gossiping Rainwings will die of shock." she wondered out loud. Deathbringer glanced at her.

"I wonder how many Nightwings are going to kill me for this." he replied. Glory looked at him.

"They can't kill you. You're a king." she retorted. Putting on his signature smug face, Deathbringer leaned back.

"King Deathbringer. I like the sound of that." he said deviously. Glory facetaloned.

"Three moons, this is going to swell your head even bigger, if that's even possible." she said sarcastically. Deathbringer grinned, but

before he could respond, Rainkeeper leapt in front of him.

"Rarrr!" the little dragonet shrieked, showing his teeth. Deathbringer chuckled and leaned towards him, barring his teeth and letting out a low growl. Rainkeeper's eyes widened and he fell back to the floor, giggling. Glory just shook her head, watching her boys growl at each other.

Later....

It was time. All the Rainwings and a few Nightwings that would carry the news back to their village were gathered outside the Queen's pavilion. Glory took a deep breath, took Rainkeeper by the talon, and walked out. As soon as the Rainwings caught sight of Rainkeeper they let out a collective "awwwww". Glory held back a smile.

"I present to you, Prince Rainkeeper of the Nightwings and Rainwings." she said elegantly. Rainkeeper waved to the dragons. .

"Hi!" he said excitedly. After a moment, Glory spoke again.

"Also, I would like to present King Deathbringer, of the Rainwings and Nightwings." As she spoke, Deathbringer stepped out of the hut and stood on Rainkeeper's other side. The reaction was.....varied. Some Rainwings shrieked and screamed with joy while others gasped. The few Nightwings that were present froze and their jaws dropped.

"WHAT!?!" one of them screeched. Glory turned her head towards the dragon and raised her eyebrows. He froze in fear and his mouth snapped shut. Rainkeeper laughed.

One week later...

The day after Rainkeeper hatched, Glory had sent out letters to her friends, and they'd all agreed to travel to the rainforest to meet the little prince. Today, they all arrived and met in the pavilion. Sunny practically tackled Glory as soon as she'd landed.

"Is he cute?" the Sandwing asked urgently. Glory nodded and Tsunami stared at her friend in confusion. She was *smiling*. And she

was *yellow*. What.

"Can we see him?" Clay asked.

"Of course!" Glory said, still smiling. "He's with Deathbringer. Follow me."

"Ah, yes. How is the assassin at being a father?" Starflight questioned.

"He's great." Glory insisted. With that, they flew off to see the new prince.

Deathbringer was sitting on a platform as Rainkeeper toddled around, mumbling nonsense words. The dragonet wandered near him and grabbed one of Deathbringer's claws, holding it up. It was bigger than Rainkeeper's entire face. The dragonet pressed the claw against the wood floor of the platform and traced it with his small talon. When he finished, he let go of Deathbringer's claw and stared at the outline in the wood before pressing his own talon into the outline. The dragonet's whole claw barely covered the palm of Deathbringer's. The dragonet frowned and turned to his father, who was looking, not at him, but at the five dragons that were approaching the platform.

"He is absolutely adorable." Sunny proclaimed. The five Dragonets of Destiny were sitting in a circle on a platform. Rainkeeper was sitting happily in his mother's lap watching the other dragons. He liked them - well, he wasn't sure about the grumpy blue one, but he definitely liked the other ones.

"Can he talk yet?" Starflight asked. Glory nodded.

"He mostly says gibberish, but he knows a few words."she replied.

"Like what?" Tsunami questioned. Rainkeeper understood and thought of the words he knew. One that his dad had taught him stood out.

"Kill!" he said in an innocent little voice. The other's eyes widened. Glory pinched the spot between her eyes with her talons.

"Where did you hear that one?" Sunny asked.

"Daddy!" the dragonet replied. He didn't understand why this made the other dragons laugh. Mommy looked mad, but he didn't know why. But he thought that this might have been the reason she'd yell at Daddy later. It was funny to see Daddy get scared, especially when it was Mommy scaring him.

The Crown

Most of the tribes had jewels, so it was easy to figure out who was important, and who was not. But the Rainwings didn't have jewels; they had flowers. So, naturally, Queen Glory had a crown made out of flowers. She would never admit it, but she secretly loved it. It was perfectly woven and it had glory flowers on it. When she wasn't wearing it, she kept it on a table in her hut. Only one day, when she went to get it, it wasn't there.

Glory frowned at the empty table. She remembered very clearly, having placed the crown on the table last night, right before she put Rainkeeper to bed. But now it was gone. So, she began to search the hut, and sure enough, she did find the crown- just not where it was supposed to be.

Deathbringer stood in front of the mirror, his smug grin from ear to ear as Glory walked in. She stared at him for a moment, and the look on her face was priceless.

He was wearing her crown. *Deathbringer*, was standing in front of the mirror, wearing a *flower crown*. What. The. Hell.

"Deathbringer," Glory said cautiously. He grinned at her.

"Yes?" he replied.

"Take off the crown."

"No way. I'm fabulous." Deathbringer boasted, completely serious. Glory walked over to him and raised her eyebrows.

"Give me my crown, Deathbringer."

"Fine. Here you go." he replied, taking off the crown and holding it high above his head so Glory couldn't reach it.

"Deathbringer." she warned. He grinned again.

"All you have to do is take it." he said innocently. Despite herself, Glory jumped and tried to reach it. It was no use, and the room was too small to fly in.

"Give me. My. Crown. *Now.*" she growled. Nothing.

Glory stared at him and contemplated how to get it back. There was one thing she could think of, but she didn't want to give him the satisfaction. He stared right back at her, his smug grin derailing her thoughts. *Damn that grin,* she thought angrily. She sighed. There really was only one thing she could do.

Deathbringer watched as Glory cracked her knuckles and glared at him, ready for war.

"Desperate times call for desperate measures." she proclaimed. She looked up at Deathbringer, grabbed him by the neck, and kissed him. As they kissed, Deathbringer set the flower crown on Glory's head. She broke away from him and glared at him. He smiled at her.

"Now that wasn't so hard, now was it?" he asked. She punched him in the arm and walked away.

"Not so fabulous now, are you?" she questioned as she left. As she walked, Rainkeeper hung down from a branch in the ceiling and snatched the crown off her head. Glory stopped walking.

"DEATHBRINGER!"

Flying

A/N: Yes, there are references to movies in here.

Deathbringer, Rainkeeper, and Jambu walked through the forest. Rainkeeper was sitting on his dad's shoulders, holding onto Deathbringer's jaw to keep his balance. Jambu fidgeted nervously beside them, his normal pink scales now a scared pale green.

"This is a horrible idea." he declared. Deathbringer grinned.

"This is a wonderful idea." he insisted.

"It's going to end terribly and Glory will kill us." Jambu proclaimed. Deathbringer shoved away a branch and looked at Jambu.

"Then we will just have to keep it from ending terribly." Jambu went pale.

"Why are you doing this again? Glory will hate it." he asked. They stopped at a clearing and Deathbringer glanced up at a very tall tree.

"I think," he began. "That you just answered your own question Jambu."

Deathbringer plopped Rainkeeper to the ground and knelt down so they were at eye level.

"Now tell me," Deathbringer asked, grinning at his son. "Do you want to learn how to fly?" Rainkeeper's eyes widened.

"YES! yesyesyesyesyesyeyseyseysyesyes!" Rainkeeper said excitedly. Deathbringer smiled at him and picked him up.

"you see that platform up there?" he asked, pointing at a spot in the tall tree. Rainkeeper nodded. " That's where you're going to learn." Deathbringer declared. Jambu let out noise very similar to a whine.

"I don't like this." He announced. "I don't like this at all." Ignoring Jambu, Deathbringer flew up to the platform and set Rainkeeper down on it. Rainkeeper peered over the side of the platform and looked down at Jambu, who was barely a speck on the ground. It was a long way down and Rainkeeper found himself growing nervous and scared. But his dad was here, so he wasn't that scared.

"Hi Uncle Jamboo!" he called, waving at his uncle.

"So," Deathbringer said. "Ready to learn?"

"Yep!" Rainkeeper replied.

"Okay," Deathbringer began. "So, what you're going to do is you're going to spread your wings and jump off the platform. Don't flap your wings though. You have to trust the wind and get on an air current before you need to flap your wings, alright?"Rainkeeper nodded slowly and looked over the edge of the platform again.

"So I has to jump?" the little dragonet asked anxiously. Deathbringer sensed the dragonet's fear, and knelt down beside him. "Don't worry." he assured him.

"If you fall, I'll catch you, alright?" Rainkeeper gulped and then nodded.

"Okay." he said weakly.

Down on the ground, Jambu's face contorted in horror. "I can't watch this." he whispered, covering his eyes with his talons. A minute later, he spread his talons apart slightly so that he could see through them.

Rainkeeper spread his wings and walked to the edge of the platform. He glanced down again and took a deep breath. Then, he jumped.

There weren't any air currents. Rainkeeper plummeted towards the ground and began to scream. He yelled, talons outstretched and wings flapping as hard as they could. Panic had completely set in.

Deathbringer watched as Rainkeeper fell and began to scream. *Wait,*

he told himself, resisting the urge to dive after his son and catch him. *Wait.* After Rainkeeper had fallen a good distance, Deathbringer realized that he wasn't going to fly this time. He immediately dove off the platform after his son.

Rainkeeper screamed and shut his eyes as the ground grew closer. But he never hit it. Instead, he collided with scales and strong arms that wrapped around him. He opened his eyes and saw his dad staring at him, his face mildly concerned. He glanced over his father's arms and noticed that they were still in the sky. Deathbringer was flying in place. He immediately latched onto Deathbringer's neck with wide eyes as they neared the ground.

Deathbringer touched down on the ground and looked at the small dragonet wrapped around him.

"I told you I'd catch you," he whispered in the dragonet's ear.

Later...

Glory sat at a desk, working, and sighed. It had been a very boring day without Deathbringer and Rainkeeper at her side.

"Mommieeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeee
a voice shrieked. Glory glanced up to see Rainkeeper burst into the room, Deathbringer laughing at his heels. She smiled and got up, picking the dragonet up into her arms. She chuckled as he hugged her.

"So, what did you do today?" she asked him. Deathbringer's eyes widened.

"I went flyin wid Uncle Jamboo an' Daady tried to teachs me to flys but it didn't work and I fell a looooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooong ways down but then Daddy catcheded me." Rainkeeper explained.

"Well, that sounds like fun," Glory replied, but Deathbringer saw the red seeping into her scales. "How about you go pick out a scroll for bedtime, alright?" she suggested.

"Okay!" he cried, running to pick out a story. As soon as he had left

the room, Glory turned to Deathbringer.

"You. Did. *WHAT!!!!*" she yelled. Deathbringer winced and tried to make himself small. He was bigger than Glory, but when she was mad, she grew much bigger and scarier than he was.

"Pleasedon'thurtmeJambutoldmenottobutIcouldn'thelpit." he stammered. She glared at him.

"You are very lucky that he didn't fly when I wasn't there." she said angrily. Deathbringer breathed a sigh of relief and relaxed.

"So, how was your day?" he asked her. She shook her head.

"Very boring without my boys, that's for sure." she proclaimed, kissing him.

The Song

[image]

It was morning. Glory had to begin her Queenly duties soon and since Deathbringer was guarding her, that meant that Rainkeeper had to get out of bed. That was something he definitely didn't want to do.

"It's time to wake up, honey," Glory whispered to him. Rainkeeper whimpered and rolled over. "Come on Rainkeeper, you have to get up," she insisted.

"No," Rainkeeper mumbled weakly. He whined again. Glory sighed.

"Why not?" she asked.

"I don fell good." he admitted. Glory rested her talon on Rainkeeper's forehead. It was boiling hot. Realization and worry swept through her. Rainkeeper had never gotten sick before. But she knew what to do. When the other dragonets had gotten sick under the mountain, Clay and her had always taken care of them, seeing as the guardians weren't going to. But she was still worried. This was her son after all.

"Deathbringer," Glory called. Rainkeeper leaned into her talon, seeing as it was cool.

"What's up?" Deathbringer asked, walking into the room.

"I think Rainkeeper's sick. He's burning up." she explained. Deathbringer frowned and walked over.

"What's the matter bud?" he questioned.

"I don fell good." Rainkeeper said miserably. Deathbringer looked at Glory.

"What do you want to do?" he asked. Glory frowned.

"I don't know. Could you maybe cover for me today? I don't want to leave him like this." she suggested. He nodded.

"Alright." he agreed, kissing her. "Feel better buddy," he added. Rainkeeper nodded.

"Go back to sleep," Glory insisted. Rainkeeper nodded again and shut his eyes. Glory stayed by him until she was sure he was asleep. Then she quietly backed out of his room and shut the door.

A few hours later....

Glory opened the door and walked in, checking on Rainkeeper. She noticed he was awake and sat by him.

"Hey bud. How are you feeling?" she asked. Rainkeeper looked at her, his eyes heavy.

"I fell wurse." he admitted, and then he burst into tears. Glory picked him up and held him in her arms, rocking him slowly.

"It's okay," she assured him, wracking her brain for something that might make him feel better. an absurd idea struck her, but if it made Rainkeeper feel better, then she was willing to try it. "Do you want me to sing to you?" she questioned. Rainkeeper sniffled and nodded. Great. But what song could she sing to him? Finally, she picked one, and began to sing.

"She works the nights, by the water.

She's gonna stress, so far away,

From her father's daughter.

She just wants a life for her baby,

All on her own, no one will come,

She's got to save him.

She tells him,

oo love, no one's ever gonna hurt you love,

I'm gonna give you all my love,

No body matters like you.

She tells him,

Your life ain't gonna be nothing like my life,

You're gonna grow and have a good life,

I'm gonna do what I've got to do.

So Rockabye baby, Rockabye,

I'm gonna rock you,

Rockabye baby, don't you cry,

Somebody's got you,

Rockabye baby, Rockabye,

I'm gonna rock you,

Rockabye baby, don't you cry."

Deathbringer walked into the hut and stopped. It had been a long day acting as a king. He had no idea how Glory pulled it off and was still able to be a caring mother and wife. A noise stopped him dead in his tracks. Was that...singing? He followed the sound and peeked into Rainkeeper's room, where, sure enough, Glory was singing. She was amazing. He'd had no idea that she could sing like that. And he recognized the song too. Time for a surprise, he decided. He snuck into the room and waited for his chance. When it arrived, he began to sing.

"Single mama you doing out there,

Facing the hardlife, without not fear.

Just so you know that you really care,

Cause an obstacle come you're prepared."

Glory stared in shock as Deathbringer sang. He was incredible. But she wasn't one to be outdone. They stared at each other for a moment, and then together, sang.

"Now she got a six-year old

Trying to keep him warm

Trying to keep him out the cold

When he looks her in the eyes,

He don't know he's safe when she says,

oo love, no one's gonna ever hurt you love,

I'm gonna give you all of my love

Nobody matters like you.

So Rockabye baby, Rockabye,

I'm gonna rock you.

Rockabye baby, don't you cry.

Somebody's got you.

Rockabye baby, Rockabye.

I'm gonna rock you.

Rockabye baby, don't you cry.

Rockabye."

Glory glanced down and saw that Rainkeeper had fallen asleep in her arms. Deathbringer noted this and walked over, taking the dragonet out of Glory's arms and putting his into his bed. Then he turned around and faced her, a smug grin on his face.

"You should sing more often."

The Paper

There was an explosion in a small city in the Sand Kingdom. Thankfully, SandWing guards had captured the bombers. As they walked the future prisoners out of town, one of them dropped a piece of paper in such a stealthy way that none of the guards noticed. But a dragonet did, for he had been trained to notice the smallest details. The dragonet snatched the piece of paper and ran after the guards.

"Wait!" he called, and the last guard turned and watched as the dragonet came up to him. "The last prisoner there. He dropped this. I thought it might be important." the dragonet explained, handing the guard the paper. The guard took it and read it with a frown. This didn't sound good.

"Thank you." he told the dragonet. "What's your name?" The dragonet narrowed his eyebrows.

"What's yours?" he questioned. The guard smiled.

"I'm Cacti." he offered. The dragonet studied him for a moment.

"Well, Cacti. Next time you see your queen, tell her that not all members of the Sting are against her. In fact, some may even want to help her. My name is Coal. Use it." he replied, before disappearing into the crowds.

"Report." Queen Thorn ordered. Cacti stood cautiously at the back of the group as the other guards reported the explosion and the captured prisoners. Thorn listened intently until they'd finished.

"Very well," she said with a sigh. "You're dismissed." The other guards nodded and left the room, but Cacti lingered. "Yes?" Thorn asked.

"When we were escorting the prisoners out of town, a dragonet gave me this, saying that one of the prisoners had dropped it." he explained, giving the paper to Queen Thorn. "He also asked me to deliver a message."he continued.

"And what is this message?" Thorn questioned.

"Well, it makes no sense to me, but he said 'next time you see your queen, tell her that not all members of the Sting are against her. In fact, some may even want to help her." Cacti relayed. Thorn paused for a moment before asking the dragonet's name. "His name was Coal." Cacti replied. Thorn nodded.

"You're dismissed." she told him. He nodded and left the room.

After he'd gone, Thorn opened the paper and read it. It said,

Assassin~

The brat's name is Rainkeeper.

You know the rest.

I want him and his mother dealt with, and soon.

I'm shortening your time to 2 weeks.

You know what I'll do if you fail me again.

~Leader

Thorn frowned. The name Rainkeeper sounded so familiar, but she couldn't put her finger on it. But whoever he was, someone was going to kill him, and his mother, soon. So she needed to find out who it was. Thorn had a guess, so she went to check.

"Sunny?" Thorn asked. Sunny looked up from her scroll.

"Yes?" she replied.

"Glory's son. His name wasn't Rainkeeper, by any chance, was it?" Thorn questioned. Sunny nodded.

"Yes it is. Why?" Sunny responded. Thorn's eyes widened and she ran from the room. In confusion and fear, Sunny ran after her. "Mother! What is it?" she called. Thorn ignored her until she spotted Six-Claws. She grabbed him and he stared at her, awaiting orders.

"Get me our fastest messenger ASAP. Go! Now!" she demanded. The words were barely out of her mouth when Six-Claws took off down the hall. Thorn ran to her office and grabbed a blank piece of paper, writing frantically.

"What's wrong? What is it? What does it have to do with Rainkeeper?" Sunny asked nervously. Thorn finished the letter and stuck it in an envelope with the paper from earlier. She went back out to the hallway just as Six-Claws arrived with a messenger. Thorn handed him the envelope.

"Take this to Queen Glory as fast as you can. Tell her it's urgent. Go." she ordered. The messenger nodded and ran off. Thorn turned back to Sunny, who was on the verge of panicking. "A message was intercepted from a bombing incident today and from the looks of it, someone has hired or blackmailed an assassin into killing Rainkeeper and Glory. I don't know when or if he'll attack now, but Glory should be prepared either way." Thorn explained. Sunny's eye grew to the size of saucers and she slumped to the floor.

Queen Glory had just answered another question when Mangrove burst into the room.

"We have a messenger from the Sand Kingdom." he announced. "He says it's urgent."

"Send him in." Glory insisted, and a moment later an exhausted Sandwing walked in and gave her a letter.

"Queen Thorn and Princess Sunny were running around like crazy before I left, so I assume this is important." he explained. Glory thanked him and sent him with Mangrove to get some water while she opened the letter and read it, along with the note. She gasped.

Later....

Glory sat at her desk, rereading the letter for practically the hundredth time.

"Hi Mommy!!!!" Rainkeeper yelled, bursting into the room with Deathbringer behind him. Glory took one look at her dragonet and dropped the letter. He was filthy. He was completely covered in mud. Deathbringer laughed at her reaction.

"You are absolutely filthy." she declared. Rainkeeper grinned. "Go get cleaned off while I yell at your dad." she ordered. Rainkeeper fled from the room, giggling. Deathbringer smiled at him, but his grin faded when he saw the serious look on Glory's face as she picked up the letter.

"What's that?" he asked.

"Something I know you are not going to like." Glory proclaimed, handing him the letter and the paper. Deathbringer grew more angry and worried as he read.

"This isn't going to happen." he assured her. "Not while I'm still breathing."

"What do you suggest we do though?"

"We could give you more camouflage guards. And we could give Rainkeeper one too, I guess." Glory frowned.

"I never wanted to have to put guards on my son to keep him safe." she admitted softly.

"It will just be for a little while though. Just until these guys are caught." he insisted. Glory nodded. Deathbringer walked over to her and set the letter on her desk. "Let's not worry about it right now, okay?" he asked.

"Okay," Glory agreed, giving him a quick kiss. His grin returned. "Do I even want to know what you did with Rainkeeper?" she asked. He laughed, shaking his head.

"You really don't."

That night...

Glory tossed and turned until her nightmare finally jolted her awake. She glanced around and noticed that Deathbringer wasn't beside her. So, she went to go look for him. She found him standing in the doorway to Rainkeeper's room, leaning against the frame.

"What are you doing up?" she questioned.

"Couldn't sleep." he replied vaguely.

"How come?"

"I can't stop thinking," he began. "About what kind of dragon would want to kill an innocent, little dragonet like our son. I just can't think of anyone that would be that cruel."

Attack

It had been one week since Thorn's letter. Glory now had three more camouflage guards on her and Jambu was at Rainkeeper's side at all times. The little dragonet didn't seem to mind, though. He liked his uncle. Despite Glory's protests, Deathbringer had also begun to train Rainkeeper in fighting. Just a few things that would help him with self defense, he assured Glory. And he had to admit, that dragonet learned fast. Within a few days he had mastered the beginner fighting skills Deathbringer had shown him. Rainkeeper may have looked like his father, but he definitely took after his mother.

But despite the new precautions, there was still a time when Glory was more vulnerable. During suntime, her Rainwing guards would go to sleep, leaving Deathbringer as her only protection. But they didn't worry about this. Glory knew that she could handle herself, and if she couldn't, then Deathbringer would protect her. It was all he wanted to do. To make sure that everyone he cared about was always safe. He didn't think he could handle another Quickstrike incident.

It happened during Suntime. Jambu and Rainkeeper had sneaked off to go pick berries. Glory and Deathbringer were walking towards the pavilion.

Between two platforms, there was a bridge made of vines. Glory crossed it, Deathbringer a few steps behind her. He thought he spotted something move in the tree near the platform, so he stopped to look. Glory kept walking. But as soon as she reached the other platform, a Sandwing leapt from the tree and tackled her.

Elsewhere in the forest....

Jambu and Rainkeeper wandered into a clearing in the forest, searching for berry bushes. But instead of finding berries, something else happened. A small rustle was heard in the trees, and Jambu

glanced up as a Sandwing burst into the clearing and lunged at Rainkeeper.

*****

Glory let out a small scream as she was tackled to the ground. The Sandwing clamped her mouth closed, preventing her from using her venom. She struggled to get out of his grip as he wrapped his talons around her neck, cutting off her air.

Deathbringer whipped around at the scream and saw a flash of yellow scales. He jumped onto the platform and pinned down the Sandwing's tail with his foot, preventing the attacker from poisoning him as he lunged at the dragon who would dare to hurt Glory.

*****

Rainkeeper was thrown to the ground by the Sandwing, but not for long. Jambu tackled the dragon off of him and they wrestled on the ground. Rainkeeper watched, and in his mind, his dad's voice rang out. *"Whenever you're fighting a Sandwing, you have to neutralize their tail first, so that they can't poison you with the barb."* So Rainkeeper's attention switched to the Sandwing's tail, that was stealthily getting closer to Jambu's chest as they fought. "*Every dragon has one weak spot, no matter their tribe. It's on their tail."* Deathringer's words sang. Seizing this advice, Rainkeeper grabbed the attacker's tail, and sank his teeth into the weak spot.

*****

Glory gasped for air as Deathbringer tackled the assassin away from her. The dragon's sharp talons had dug into her neck and she was bleeding, but she was alive. She stumbled to her feet as Deathbringer wrestled the Sandwing, keeping his tail pinned. Glory looked around frantically for something she could use to help him. Her eyes landed on an abandoned pile of sleeping darts. *Perfect,* she thought, taking off to grab one.

*****

The attacker let out a roar in pain and whipped around to see Rainkeeper's teeth clamped down on his tail. The tiny dragonet gave him a small wave. The distraction was enough though, for Jambu to get out of the Sandwing's grip and to pull a small dart out of a pouch.

*****

Glory raced over as Deathbringer pinned the Sandwing to the ground. Without hesitating, Glory stabbed the sleeping dart into the attacker, and he fell asleep a moment later. As soon as he was out, Deathbringer whipped around and examined Glory.

"Are you alright?" he asked frantically, noting the shallow cuts on her neck and arms.

"I'm fine." she insisted. "Are you?" Deathbringer nodded, and they glanced at the Sandwing, panting in relief. Then it hit them. They turned back to each other with wide eyes.

"Rainkeeper." they whispered in unison. With that, they took off to the forest.

*****

The Sandwing slumped to the ground, unconscious, as another rustle was heard in the trees. Jambu staggered to his feet, clearly injured from the fight. Rainkeeper watched anxiously, his teeth still clamped down on the Sandwing's tail. But instead of seeing another assassin, the only dragons that burst into the clearing were Glory and Deathbringer.

"Daddy!" Rainkeeper yelled, spitting the Sandwing tail out of his mouth. He raced over to his parents and lept into Deathbringer's arms. Glory rushed over to Jambu, who explained what had happened.

"We fought bad guys!" Rainkeeper said happily. "I bit his tail at the weak spot, like you said to, and I pinned his tail. Then Uncle Jamboo hit him with a dart and he fell down!" Deathbringer let out a sigh of relief and hugged his son tightly. He was okay. Glory was

okay. No one had died or even been seriously injured. They were safe again.

Rainkeeper then took in the scratches on Deathbringer and on Glory.

"Did you fight bad guys too?" he asked his dad. Deathbringer smiled at him.

"As a matter of fact," he replied. "We did."

The Incident of the Nightwing Island

It was a busy day. Glory was rushing all over the Rainforest, answering questions and solving problems. Deathbringer, as usual, was at her heels all day. They were so busy on this day that no one spotted Rainkeeper sneaking off to the Nightwing village.

Rainkeeper had only been to the village once before. His dad had brought him there and had told him about how they lived on a volcano until Glory let them move into the forest. He had even shown the dragonet the tunnel to the volcano island.

"But you are never to go there. Alright?" Deathbringer had ordered. "It's dangerous in there and I don't want you getting hurt." Of course, Rainkeeper had promised that he would never go into the tunnel.

But that promise didn't exactly get kept.

Rainkeeper wandered around the village, keeping his wings tucked in so no one would recognize the Rainwing scales. He stumbled upon a group of three Nightwing dragonets, all boys. *Maybe they can be my friends,* Rainkeeper thought. He wanted a friend. Sure, he was liked and dragons wanted to be around him, but he wanted someone his own age that he could play with. The closest thing he had was his cousin Pineapple, Jambu's daughter. But she was five years older than him and mean to everyone. No one really knew why she hated everyone she'd ever seen.

The boys stopped playing as Rainkeeper neared them.

"Hi," he said cautiously. "Can I play with you?" The boys glanced at each other, and one of them stood up and swaggered over to him.

"Well, that depends." he said accusingly. "The Rainforest is boring. If you can bring us somewhere cool, then maybe we'll let you hang out with us." Rainkeeper blinked.

"Um. Okay. I'm Rainkeeper." he tried. The other dragonet studied him for a moment.

"That's a dopey name, but we'll change it if you get in to our group. I'm Shadowslayer." he replied. Rainkeeper frowned. He liked his name. It wasn't dopey at all. *Maybe if I get in their group I can convince them that it's a cool name,* he thought. "So," Shadowslayer questioned. "You got somewhere cool to take us or not?" Rainkeeper thought for a moment, but the only place he could think of was the tunnel to the Nightwing Island. *But Dad said never to go there,* he remembered. *But what's the worst that could happen?* he thought to himself.

"I've got a place." Rainkeeper proclaimed. "But I wouldn't say it's cool. It's actually quite warm."

The four dragonets, Rainkeeper, Shadowslayer, and his two cronies, Destroyer and Killer, stood at the entrance to the tunnel.

"Okay," Shadowslayer admitted. "This is pretty cool." They walked into the tunnel and Killer raced ahead of the group.

"WOAH! Guys! Come check this out!" he yelled from up ahead. The others ran to him and stopped when they saw it. It was a huge skeleton of a dead dragon. Rainkeeper's eyes widened in horror as the other boys exclaimed over it and poked at it with their claws.

"Creepy." Destroyer announced.

"Yet cool." Shadowslayer corrected him as they went further down the tunnel.

Elsewhere....

Deathbringer wandered around the Rainwing village, growing slightly worried. No one had seen Rainkeeper all day and no one knew where he had gone. So, Deathbringer was searching for him, praying that he'd just gone exploring instead of being kidnapped or

worse. When he was sure the dragonet wasn't in the Rainwing village, Deathbringer headed to the Nightwing one. He didn't think that Rainkeeper would be there, but you never knew.

After asking around, Deathbringer heard that Rainkeeper had been seen walking towards the tunnels with three other dragonets a couple of hours ago. No one had seen them since. *He wouldn't go* there, *would he?* Deathbringer thought to himself. *No, I told him not too. But still...* With that, he rushed off to the tunnels.

Rainkeeper watched from the tunnel entrance as the other boys explored the volcano island.

"Come on scaredy-sloth! Don't be such a downer!" They yelled at him. Rainkeeper was hesitant. The volcano was still active and streams of boiling hot smoke and bits of lava occasionally shot into the air from random places in the ground. He didn't want to get burned. Plus, the air was covered in ash and smoke. It wasn't breathable. He missed the fresh air of the rainforest and the bright blue sky that you couldn't see from this island.

"Maybe we should head back," he suggested. The boys ignored him. "Guys?" he asked. Suddenly, a loud BOOM was heard and a geyser of smoke and drops of lava shot out of the ground right next to Killer. The dragonet screamed as the drops landed on him, burning his scales. Rainkeeper jumped from his spot on the tunnel and flew towards Killer, pulling him away from the deadly geyser.

"Hatchlings!" Shadowslayer shouted at them. "Man up!"

"I wouldn't be so cocky if you knew how much trouble you are in." a deep voice growled from the tunnel. Rainkeeper's face fell as Deathbringer walked out.

"Out. Now." Deathbringer ordered. Destroyer ran for the tunnel and Shadowslayer reluctantly followed, Killer limping behind him. Rainkeeper rushed towards the tunnel and looked at his dad regretfully. He winced as Deathbringer glared at him and grabbed him by the arm, pulling him out of the tunnel and away from the boys. When they were back in the forest, Deathbringer let go of him and glared. Rainkeeper shrank under the glare, wanting nothing

more than to melt into a puddle of disappointment.

"Dad, I-" he tried.

"I don't want to hear it." Deathbringer snapped. "You deliberately disobeyed me. And if that's not enough, you put three other dragonets in danger, one of which is hurt. I told you not to go there and you didn't listen. You are in a lot of trouble, Rainkeeper." The dragonet stared at the ground, fighting off the tears. Out of the corner of his eye, he could see the boys watching him. Deathbringer paused for a moment, studying his son. He was practically crying. But Deathbringer wasn't done yet. He was mad. "I am very disappointed in you." he declared, walking away from the dragonets. Rainkeeper winced. That sentence stung more than anything else.

"Wimp." Shadowslayer announced.

"Oh Shut up." Rainkeeper snapped, running away from the other dragonets.

Glory whirled around as Rainkeeper trudged inside. She rushed over to him and pulled him into a hug.

"I didn't mean to-" Rainkeeper began, but he stopped when Glory hugged him.

"I know." she explained. "I'm just glad you're alright."

"He's still in a lot of trouble, Glory." Deathbringer retorted. Rainkeeper felt the sting of his father's words hit him again. So, when Glory finally released him, he ran to his room, shut the door, and collapsed on his bed in tears.

Deathbringer watched as his son fled from the room.

"Maybe I was too hard on him." he said regretfully.

"He'll be okay," Glory insisted. "He's strong."

"I didn't think it would hurt him that much." he admitted with a sigh. "I never stop and remember how seriously he takes everything

I say until it's too late."

"He just wants your approval." Glory replied. "He takes everything you say seriously because he wants to be like you." Deathbringer looked at her.

"He shouldn't be."

Rainkeeper lay in his bed, thinking. *I'm very disappointed in you,* the voice in his head sang.

I'm going to make it up to you dad, he vowed. *Somehow.*

I Will Protect Her. No Matter What.

It was common knowledge throughout Pyrrhia that only daughters, sisters, nieces, and granddaughters could challenge the Queen for the throne. But even so, no one expected what happened in the rainforest.

The Rainwing and Nightwing throne didn't have an heir, seeing as Glory didn't have a daughter. But since Glory and Deathbringer had two eggs just weeks away from hatching, no one worried. But there was technically someone in line for the throne, someone no one had considered until afterwards.

Pineapple was Jambu's daughter. Jambu was Glory's brother. That made her Glory's niece, and able to challenge her for the throne. But no one ever expected her too. So, it was a shock when she did. But it was even more of a shock when they found out what Pineapple did when she *lost*.

It was another busy day in the rainforest. Glory followed her jobs and attempted to avoid questions related to her recent challenge. It had been a camouflage contest and Glory had won, so she kept her throne. Deathbringer followed her throughout the day, and Rainkeeper spent time sorting fruit with Mangrove. Even he was rattled by the challenge. Pineapple was only five years older than him, at the near adulthood mark of seven. He had never really considered what life would be like if his mom wasn't Queen.

It was near sundown. Glory sighed as she slumped down at her desk to answer letters.

"Anything you need me to do for you?" Deathbringer asked, knowing she wouldn't be leaving anytime soon.

"Could you check on the eggs for me?" Glory asked. He nodded and

left the hut en route to the hatchery.

*****

Pineapple fumed, pacing the forest floor. How could she have lost? She was prepared to win! Not to lose in some stupid contest. She expected Glory to fight her, not some entertainment charade. *I have to be queen,* she proclaimed. *But how?* There was an easy way, of course. Just make sure she was the only heir. That plan had a problem though. Glory had two eggs in the hatchery, one of those could be a girl.

Well then, Pineapple thought evilly. *I guess I just have to get rid of them.*

Pineapple stormed into the hatchery, brandishing a thick branch she'd pulled off a tree. There, on a slightly raised dais, was the two royal eggs. *Left or right?* she thought. With an evil grin, Pineapple walked to the right, and raised the branch like a club.

Deathbringer walked to the hatchery. When he neared the entrance, a furious yell shot through the air, coming from inside the hatchery. Deathbringer rushed inside to see Pineapple smashing a dragonet egg.

Without a second thought, he lunged at her, wrestling her to the ground. Pineapple fought viciously, while Deathbringer attempted to take more care, trying not to harm any more eggs. Pineapple didn't care about that as she lept out of Deathbringer's grip into a clutch of eggs, smashing them. Her abandoned branch had crushed two more when it had been thrown away from her. Instead of fleeing while she had the chance, Pineapple launched herself at Deathbringer, on the attack. She was surprisingly strong and her eyes glittered like fire.

Eventually, Deathbringer managed to get her outside the hatchery. Figuring he would have her arrested, Pineapple took off into the sky. Deatbringer watched her go before rushing back into the hatchery. It was bad. At least ten eggs had been crushed, including one of the royal ones. Deathbringer stared at the broken shell and collapsed to the ground in defeat and grief.

*****

Rainkeeper had just walked into his mother's office when a frantic-looking dragon burst into the room.

"Your Majesty!" he cried as Glory ran to him. "There's been an- an- I don't even know what to call it, it's horrible."

"What happened?" Glory demanded.

"The hatchery was attacked." the messenger explained. "Deathbringer's been hurt. He's in the healer's hut." She didn't wait to hear the rest. Glory bolted from the room and flew as fast as her wings could carry her. The messenger followed her.

Rainkeeper stood there, stunned. His dad was hurt. He should go to the healer's hut. But his siblings were in the hatchery. What if the dragon that attacked it came back? With that, Rainkeeper flew off to the hatchery.

*****

Glory burst into the healer's hut, her eyes searching. They landed on a wiry Nightwing laying on a cot in the room.

"Deathbringer."she whispered, rushing over to him. He opened his eyes as she sat on the edge of the cot and grabbed his talon. The regret in his eyes almost made her want to cry.

"I'm sorry." he whispered to her. "I'm so sorry. Pineapple....she attacked the hatchery. I tried to stop her, but I arrived too late. I was too late. She broke one of ours. I'm so sorry Glory." his eyes filled. Glory found herself crying as she gripped his talon harder. They had lost a dragonet, the most painful thing in the world, and it had happened to them. If it had just been two weeks later, it would've hatched. But now it never would.

*****

Rainkeeper slowly entered the hatchery, taking in the sight. There were smashed egg shells and untouched ones everywhere. He couldn't leave it like this. So he decided to clean it up. Rainkeeper

went and got a broom and swept up the broken shells, taking note of which couple's eggs had been smashed. But then there was only one thing left to clean up.

The other dragonet eggs were new, so there was just an egg to clean up. But the crushed shell on the dais had a dragonet inside. It didn't feel right to Rainkeeper to just sweep this dragonet, his own brother, away. So he thought of a different plan.

Carefully, Rainkeeper picked up the dead dragonet and carried him into the forest. There, he found a suitable tree and began to dig. He rested the dragonet into the small grave and buried him. But this job wasn't over yet. Rainkeeper walked around the forest, grabbing vines and glory flowers. Then he went back to the grave and wrapped the vines around the tree, marking it. Then he placed the glory flowers on the little grave and carved into the tree, *My brother.*

After a moment, Rainkeeper went back to the hatchery. There was still another egg on the dais, this one unharmed. *My sibling,* Rainkeeper thought. *No one can harm this one.* He sat down on the dais behind the egg and watched it. *I wonder if she can hear me,* he thought.

"Hello little sister. I don't know how I know you're a girl, but I do." he began, talking to the egg. "I don't know if you can hear me, but if you can, listen up. I'm Rainkeeper, your big brother. I'm going to protect you, no matter what. Nobody's ever gonna hurt you, even after you hatch. You'll like it out here. We have a great Mom and Dad. Just don't let Dad teach you how to fly." he added with a laugh.

Meanwhile

"I am so sorry." Jambu apologized. "Is there anything I can do?" Glory nodded.

"Yes." she said with a sigh. "And you don't have to keep apologizing. But could you find Rainkeeper for me and bring him here? And try to figure out whose eggs were smashed so we can notify the parents." Jambu nodded and left.

He felt so guilty. He should've been able to stop Pineapple- he was his daughter after all. He sighed and began looking for Rainkeeper. But the playful dragonet was nowhere to be found. He wasn't anywhere. Jambu frowned and made his way to the hatchery, dreading to see the damage Pineapple had done. But instead, he found Rainkeeper sitting defiantly behind an egg.

"What are you doing?" Jambu asked cautiously.

"I am protecting my sister." Rainkeeper declared. "Whoever attacked the hatchery could come back and if they do, I'm not letting them hurt this dragonet. I am not leaving here until it hatches safely." Jambu stared at him, and he stared right back, his facial expression identical to Glory's. Jambu could see the Glory in him just begging him to argue.

"Alright." Jambu said slowly, leaving the hatchery.

*****

Glory glanced up as Jambu entered the hut.

"Where's Rainkeeper?" she asked. Deathbringer had been given a sleeping dart to help him rest and she wanted to see the little dragonet's face.

"Um....He's in the hatchery." Jambu offered. Glory frowned.

"Why?"

"According to Rainkeeper, he is protecting his sibling and is refusing to leave the hatchery until it hatches." he announced. Glory blinked.

"Well.... Make sure he doesn't go hungry." she ordered.

Hello to Joy

Rainkeeper stayed true to his word. For the next two weeks, he remained by the dragonet egg. Glory and Deathbringer would stay with him sometimes and guards would bring him food. In that time, Pineapple still hadn't returned to the rainforest, but Deathbringer recovered fully from the fight. Many dragons were surprised to hear that they allowed Rainkeeper to be on his own after the attack, but Glory kept a guard outside the hatchery at all times, just to be safe. But now the two weeks were up, and the egg was hatching.

Seeing as he had protected the egg for weeks, Glory and Deathbringer let him watch the hatching. He stayed with them, curled up in Glory's lap, until it hatched. A small dragonet tumbled out of the shell and fell on the hatchery floor with a huff. She looked up at the dragons that made up her family, and glanced at them quizzically.

She, unlike Rainkeeper, resembled a Rainwing. She had the build of a Nightwing but the rainbow scales of Rainwings. She looked just like Glory, but with silver eyes like Deathbringer. There was something about her expression that made the family know that she would have Deathbringer's signature smirk perfected instantly.

Rainkeeper shifted to Deathbringer's lap as Glory picked up the little dragonet with a smile. The hatchling studied her and squeaked.

"What're you gonna call her?" Rainkeeper asked. Glory glanced at Deathbringer and he nodded.

"What are you going to call her?" he asked his son. Rainkeeper frowned.

"What do you mean?" he questioned.

"You protected her for weeks. It's only fair that you should be the

one to name her." Glory replied. Rainkeeper's eyes widened. *He* was going to get to choose his sister's name? His eyebrows furrowed, pondering the decision.

"You don't have to make up your mind right now," Glory insisted. "You can think about it." Rainkeeper nodded, and grinned as the dragonet looked at him.

"Hi." he said tentatively, waving. "Remember me?" The dragonet squeaked happily and reached towards him with her talons.

Deathbringer and Glory watched as their two dragonets met. Deathbringer wrapped one wing around her as they looked at each other. Years ago, neither of them would've ever considered this life as a possibility, let alone a reality. To just be healthy and living away from the volcano was far more than Deathbringer had ever dreamed of when he was a dragonet. And to be living in the rainforest as a queen, happy with a family, was more than Glory could've ever hoped for under the mountain. But yet, here they were. Things were perfect, and nothing, not even Pineapple or any other attackers, could change that.

Later that night....

"Who would've thought that we'd end up here," Deathbringer remarked. He and Glory were sitting outside of their hut, watching the sky. Rainkeeper and their new daughter had gone to bed hours ago.

"I know what you mean," Glory replied. "I mean, if someone had told me when I was living under the mountain that I would end up being the Nightwing Rainwing Queen and be married to an assassin with two dragonets...."she trailed off. Deathbringer laughed.

"If someone had told me when I was a dragonet that I would end up giving up being an assassin because I decided to marry the Rainwing Queen, I probably would've punched them in the face." he admitted. Glory laughed and leaned into him, resting her head on his shoulder.

"I would've believed it if I'd heard it after I met you."

"Really? How come?"

"Well," Glory began. "Remember that time when Tsunami and I had you pinned to the ground and I asked you to tell me what I was thinking and you said that I was thinking that you were too handsome and charming to kill?"

"Of course," Deathbringer said slyly.

"Well, that was a lot closer to accurate than I liked."

The next day....

"I've picked a name!" Rainkeeper announced as he walked to the table for breakfast.

"Really?" Glory asked. "What is it?"

"Before you answer," Deathbringer began. "I just want to say that I'm really proud of you Rainkeeper. You've matured a lot over this." Rainkeeper froze. His dad wasn't disappointed in him anymore, he was *proud.* The word filled him up and he grinned.

"Well, with that," Rainkeeper began, picking up his little sister from her seat and tickling her til she giggled. "Introducing the newest addition to the Rainforest Royal Family and Heir to the throne, Prrrrrincess, Joy!" he announced. There was a pause.

"Ta-Da!!" Rainkeeper added to fill the silence. Glory and Deathbringer broke out in smiles.

"Joy," Glory replied. "It's perfect."

Tag

Deathbringer stood outside a rainforest hut and sighed. Glory was having a meeting inside and she thought it would be better if he guarded from out here rather than by her side. That was annoying. Rainkeeper was away on some dragonet field trip and Joy was supposed to be taking a nap while Jambu watched her.

Turns out Jambu wasn't very good at his job.

"Hi Daddy!" a little voice cried. Deathbringer turned at the sound to see Joy standing innocently on the platform.

"You're supposed to be sleeping." he reminded her.

"But dat's bowing. An Uncl' Jamboo fells asleeps so I has no one to plays wid. Will you play wid me, Daddy?" she begged. Deathbringer paused, staring at her hopeful face.

Glory found Deathbringer and Joy's relationship hilarious. Joy was only a few months old, but she already had Deathbringer and Rainkeeper wrapped around her talon. They would practically do anything she asked. But she didn't use it to her advantage or greedily, she just wanted to run and play. In Deathbringer's defense, it was impossible to say no to Joy. She had this little adorable face that would crush you if you made her sad. Deathbringer had no idea where she'd gotten this spell-like face from, but Glory did. The day Joy learned a smirk, smug expression, or sarcasm, it would make sense to Deathbringer. Many of the older Rainwings said that they pitied the boys that would fall for Joy. And with Rainkeeper and Deathbringer protecting her....some crushes would be just that. Crushes.

Deathbringer peeked into the meeting room. The dragons were deep in discussion, bound to not move for a while. He could sneak away and be back before the meeting ended.

"Alright." he agreed.

"YAY!" Joy yelled, jumping with excitement "Les play tag!" she suggested.

"Okay," Deathbringer said, smiling at the now yellow dragonet.

"I'lls be it." Joy volunteered. "Yous has to run." she told him. Chuckling slightly, Deathbringer shook his head and jogged into the forest at a pace he knew Joy could keep up with. "Imma GET YOU!" she shrieked, running after him.

Laughing, Deathbringer and Joy ran through the forest, tagging each other. Every time Deathbringer would catch the small girl, she would erupt into a fit of giggling that made Deathbringer laugh with her. They ran all over the forest.

At one point, they were nearing the Nightwing village, Joy was it. Deathbringer stopped in a small clearing, looking around. Joy was nowhere to be seen. Deathbringer spun in a circle searching with his eyes. He heard footsteps approach, but as he turned toward them, a small flurry of yellow scales jumped from a tree onto him. Caught off guard and disoriented, Deathbringer fell to the ground. Joy laughed, resting on his chest.

"I gots you!" she cried happily. Deathbringer cracked a grin and laughed, causing Joy to giggle more.

"Wow." a cold voice said haughtily. "Have your assassin skills really diminished so much that you got beat by a six-month old Rainwing dragonet?" Deathbringer stopped laughing. He sat up and glared at the Nightwing. But before he could snap a comeback, Joy spoke, her scales now a flaming red.

"I has you know," she retorted. "That I is *seven* months old, you big ugly walrus. And my daddy can tots-ally beats you!" The Nightwing raised a eyebrow as Joy stuck her tongue out at him. Deathbringer grinned.

"Come on Joy. Let's leave the ugly walrus to his fish." he announced. Joy nodded and took her dad's talon as they walked back to the Rainwing village.

Pear

Rainkeeper wandered through the forest, gathering sticks. Joy was at dragonet daycare and his parents were busy, so he'd decided to explore the forest. That's when an idea had struck.

Rainkeeper, even though he was only two, was an amazing artist. He used fruits as paint and would make things out of dyed sticks he would find. But no one really knew this, except for Joy, of course. The two siblings had a very close bond and Rainkeeper found it difficult to keep anything from his little sister. I mean, how could you deny something to a dragonet that called you Keepie? Rainkeeper wanted to be just like his dad, but for some reason he got the impression that Deathbringer wouldn't like his son painting things instead of fighting. So he kept his art a secret.

Rainkeeper bent down to grab another stick when something hard smacked him in the back of the head, causing him to drop the sticks. He looked down and saw the now bruised apple on the ground. A small yelp came from the tree next to him and when Rainkeeper looked up, there was a dragon's snout just inches away from his face.

Rainkeeper yelped and jumped back, causing the other dragon to laugh. Rainkeeper raised an eyebrow at the dragon as he took her in. The dragon looked to be his age, and was somehow dangling upside down from a tree branch. Her tail was wrapped tightly around the branch and she stared curiously at him with beautiful blue eyes. Rainkeeper gazed into her eyes for a moment before shaking himself.

"I haven't seen you before." the girl remarked, swinging down from the branch and landing gracefully on the ground. Up in the tree, a gray sloth took her spot and made a gurgle-like sound. Rainkeeper studied the sloth for a moment. It reminded him of his mother's sloth, Silver, but this one was messier.

"Sorry about the apple." the girl apologized. "Tree-bud doesn't really like dragons. Well, except for me." she added. Rainkeeper stared at her in confusion. "Oh!" she said in realization. She pointed to the sloth. "That's Tree-bud. I'm Pear. What's your name? Is it Colorful dragon? Because your wings are very colorful. Can I call you Colorful dragon? I'm gonna call you colorful dragon." she said excitedly. Rainkeeper blinked.

"Um. My name is Rainkeeper." he offered. The girl -Pear- smiled.

"That's a nice name. It suits you. Maybe I'll call you Rainy instead. Wait. Does that mean you can make it rain? I mean, probably not, but with all the weird powers the other Nightwings have I wouldn't be surprised if you could. Okay, yes I would, but still. Can you make it rain? Wait! Don't answer that. If you can make it rain, then do that instead!" she chattered. Rainkeeper grinned. He liked this dragon.

"How did you get in that tree?" Pear paused.

"You've never climbed a tree?" Rainkeeper frowned.

"Why would you climb a tree when you can just fly up to where you want to be?"

"So that you could see the world in a different way of course!" she explained. She studied him for a moment, then a smile grew across her face. "That's it! Rainy, I'm gonna teach you how to climb a tree." she declared. Rainkeeper grinned.

"Okay," he said cautiously. He paused, unsure if he should ask this or not. "So...are we like, um..." he trailed off. Pear caught on.

"Friends?" she finished for him. "I've never had a friend before. I mean, except for Tree-bud." she admitted.

"Me neither."

"Well, then, I'd say we're friends." Pear proclaimed. Rainkeeper grinned.

"I like that."

Later.....

It was dinner time. Rainkeeper sat at the table with Joy and his parents.

"I made a friend today," he announced with a grin. Glory smiled at him.

"That's great!" she insisted. "What's his name?"

"*Her* name is Pear." Rainkeeper corrected her. "She has a sloth named Tree-bud and she's gonna teach me to climb trees." he declared. Deathbringer looked at him.

"Why would you climb trees when you could just fly around them?" he asked. Rainkeeper grinned.

"Pear says it's so you can see the world in a different way." he proclaimed. *And I think I am*, he added in his head.

Food Fight!

Glory sighed. It had been a long and stressful day as a queen. She'd missed her funny little dragonets during the day. But now it was time for dinner, something Glory was grateful for. Because no matter what, she got to eat dinner with her family.

Joy babbled to herself as they ate. Her parents were talking and Rainkeeper was attempting to open a pineapple without hitting himself in the face. He was unsuccessful. Joy glanced down at the banana slices in front of her. She didn't like banana much. She liked the sweeter fruits. But what could she do with the banana? An idea struck her and she smiled a smug grin just like her father's.

Rainkeeper swatted the back of his ear as something hit him. He frowned as he spotted the whiteish mush on his talon. Then, another bit of it hit him on the back of the neck. Was this...banana? he wondered. He turned slightly and noticed that Joy was biting her lip and shaking, as if she was holding back a laugh.

So that's how it is, Rainkeeper determined. Silently, so that their parents wouldn't notice the small war that was about to begin, Rainkeeper grabbed a bunch of berries, picked one off, and tossed it at Joy. Her silent laughter stopped when the berry hit her in the face. She wiped the juice off her face and looked at him. He stared back. Their expressions both clearly read one thing.

Oh, it's on.

Disregarding how their parents would react, Joy and Rainkeeper dove towards the food, grabbing all the berries, bananas, and other mushy fruits they could. They whipped the fruits at each other, laughing and yelling.

"Rainkeeper!" Glory protested. "Joy! Stop it!" As she yelled, Deathbringer slowly sliced a cantaloupe in half. She was too distracted watching the dragonets to notice. With a grin,

Deathbringer took one half of the fruit, and smashed it into Glory's snout.

There was silence. Rainkeeper and Joy had frozen in fear as Deathbringer chuckled to himself, clearly the only one amused. Glory's scales slowly turned red as the fruit fell onto the table. Quietly, she picked up a soft peach and smushed it into Deathbringer's smiling face. His grin faded as she smirked at him and Joy dared to laugh. He nodded slightly and licked a bit of the fruit off his face. He grabbed one of the mushy chunks and threw it at Joy.

"Food fight!" Rainkeeper yelled. Chaos began.

Nearly all the fruit on the table was smashed and thrown at someone. The table and chairs had been abandoned. There were screeches and shouts as food was thrown. Joy got hit in the face with mushed peaches and giggled on the ground for a good five minutes straight. Rainkeeper laughed so hard he could barely breathe as Glory tickled him on the floor. Deathbringer snuck up behind them and grabbed Glory by the waist. She shrieked as he lifted her off the floor.

"Wanna form an alliance?" he whispered to her. Glory grinned.

"Never!" she declared, shoving mashed berries at him.

They raced around the room, chucking food and laughing. Glory rushed over to Rainkeeper and whispered something to him. He nodded. She grinned and ran across the room, scooping Joy off the ground and whispering the same thing to her. The little dragonet laughed and agreed as Glory tickled her. The three of them grabbed handfuls of the mushiest fruits. Deathbringer glanced up as Joy yelled.

"Get him!" she screeched, and Deathbringer was tackled to the ground. He yelped as Glory, Joy, and Rainkeeper jumped on him and smashed fruit at him. The family burst out laughing in their pile.

It was late and they were covered in mashed fruits of all kinds, but

that didn't matter. All that mattered at that moment was the memories they had just made. The memories that would last a lifetime. Glory smiled at her messy family. They may be different, they may be messy, but to her, they were perfect.

The Unknown Past of Deathbringer

Every now and then, there would be a meeting between all the Queens of Pyrrhia. These meetings were famous and extremely secretive. No one except for the Queens and their most trusted guards even knew the location of the meetings, but it was still considered the most heavily guarded events in all of Pyrrhia. There was one rule with the meetings. No one was allowed to speak of what was discussed. Some of the crueler queens in Pyrrhia history had even killed their guards after the meetings. It was that serious. And now it was time for a meeting.

Glory stood uncertainly outside the rainforest hut. She would be gone for a few days for the meeting, and seeing as she was supposed to bring her most trusted guards, Deathbringer was coming too. They were both hesitant. This would be the first time they'd ever left their dragonets for so long. What if something happened?

Glory was taking four guards with her and leaving her next most trusted guard to watch Joy and Rainkeeper. That meant she was leaving her children in the hands of Jambu.

That was enough to make anyone nervous.

But she had too. Glory sighed. They had to get going, which meant she had to say goodbye and actually leave. Despite her son's protests, Glory pulled Rainkeeper into a hug.

"Be good." She ordered. "Look after your sister for me."

"I will." Rainkeeper promised as Glory kissed the top of his head. Joy laughed as Deathbringer picked her up and spun her around as he hugged her.

"You behave for Jambu, alright?" he questioned. Joy smiled at him.

"I will Daddy. I pomis!" she said sweetly. Deathbringer grinned at her ruefully and set her down. How could he possibly be expected to leave his little girl? Even for a few days, it was going to be a lifetime. He smiled to himself. Years ago, he never would've believed that he was going to be this attached to his dragonets- or that he'd *have* any dragonets, for that matter. But he was, and he did, and as he hugged Rainkeeper goodbye, he was really going to miss these hilarious dragonets for the next few days. Besides Glory, they were the light in his life. After saying their goodbyes, Glory, Deathbringer and the other guards were off.

By the next day, they had reached the location. It was a hidden mountain in the Sky Kingdom, oblivious to the Skywings. Inside, each queen was allowed one guard. The rest had to wait outside. So the other guards waited outside the door in the outer chamber of the cave as Deathbringer and Glory went in and shut the door behind them. It was enchanted to be soundproof, but that didn't stop the extra guards from pressing their ears against the door, straining to hear.

Glory walked gracefully into the room and took her seat. At one end of the table, Queen Glacier sat regally. She was normally the dragon who ran the meetings. To Glacier's left was Queen Coral, with Queen Ruby next to her. Next to Glory was Queen Thorn. A few minutes after Glory's arrival, Queen Moorhen took her place at the opposite end of the table. The six guards allowed in the room spaced themselves around the room, pressed against the walls. They were to remain silent and un-moving at all times.

A guard that interrupted the meeting was a guard that died. No matter their position. Out of the corner of her eye, Glory could spot Deathbringer watching her. Rather than stand behind her, he'd chosen to stand on the opposite side of the room. This way he could watch her back in case anyone entered the room. While the meeting were meant to be serious, sometimes the topic would switch and the six queens of Pyrrhia would just end up having a normal conversation. But those were difficult. All the rulers of Pyrrhia in one room had quite a bit of tension. Coral and Moorhen would often glare at each other and even Glacier and Glory would

occasionally send each other dirty looks. Glory was Queen of the Nightwings after all.

At one point, Coral and Moorhen began arguing. This brought a question to Ruby and Glory's minds, but Ruby asked first.

"I don't mean to interrupt your debate," Ruby began. "But I was wondering if you could clarify something. We all know that certain tribes don't exactly get along, but with most, like the Nightwings and the Icewings for instance, it's very clear why. But I don't understand why the Mudwings and the Seawings dislike each other." Glory nodded.

"I'm sure it's probably something obvious that Ruby and I are just unaware of, but I too would like to know the reasoning behind it." she agreed.

"I always thought it was obvious why they dislike each other." Thorn admitted. "It's because of Tempest, right?" Was it Glory's imagination, or did Deathbringer stiffen at the name? Was it just her, or did he seem slightly nervous? The other queens nodded.

"Tempest was probably before their time though," Glacier realized.

"Who's Tempest?" Ruby asked. And the story began.

"Tempest," Glacier began. "Was a commander for the Seawing army, back when The Mudwings were allied with Blister. Dragons said that Blister had found a military ally as smart as she was. And it was true. They could've won the war in a matter of weeks with the two of them put together."

"What happened?" Glory questioned, now watching Deathbringer as he grew more and more stone-like.

"She was killed." Glacier explained.

"Blister was having a meeting with Tempest and General Swamp from the Mudwings. They were discussing a new strategy, but when Tempest came out of the tent a spear was thrown and it hit her straight in the heart. She died right there." Moorhen offered.

"It was an amazing throw from what I heard." Glacier admitted. Glory frowned. Now, *why* did Deathbringer look momentarily *proud* when Glacier said that? What was he hiding?

"But the thing that changed the assassination, was that she was killed with a *Mudwing* spear." Coral explained. "Blister had the entire island searched as the other dignitaries argued. Swamp claimed that no Mudwing could've killed her, while my third in command at the time, Piranha insisted that the evidence was right in front of them. Nobody was found that wasn't supposed to be there and Blister had two Mudwings killed for the murder since there was no one else to blame."

"Two *innocent* Mudwings." Moorhen argued. "We never found out who really killed her."

"Wait, they did find someone." Glacier remembered. "There was that Nightwing." Now this was an interesting reaction for Glory to watch. At the mention of the Nightwing, Deathbringer winced and shut his eyes, stiffening like a statue. He clearly wanted to be anywhere else right now.

"What Nightwing?" Ruby pressed on.

"When they searched the island a couple of Sandwings found a female Nightwing laying unconscious on the island. Half-dead, never to wake up again. It was inconvenient, so Blister told them to kill her and they moved on." Coral offered.

"Really not that important." Moorhen agreed.

Deathbringer wanted to scream. He wanted to choke Moorhen for that comment and a part of him wanted to cry at the uncovered memory of Quickstrike. She wasn't just some random dragon. Not to him. But to speak meant death, so he kept quiet.

A/N: Now, to make you wait for part 2. For those of you that have read Winglets: Assassin, you know where this is going. And for those of you that haven't, all will be revealed in the next part, but for now, the Nightwing, Quickstrike, is Deathbringer's *mother*.

Quickstrike

They were back in the rainforest. The entire fly back Deathbringer had known she was going to ask. Glory wasn't an idiot, she could tell when something was wrong, especially with him. Naturally she wanted to know who the Nightwing was. And she'd press until she got the answer. But Deathbringer didn't want to talk about her. He'd kept Quickstrike's death a secret his entire life, fearing the pain that would come from retelling the story. But now he knew that he'd have to tell Glory. She was his *wife,* the love of his life, the mother to his dragonets, his Queen, his- his everything. Now that she wanted to know, he couldn't keep the truth from her forever.

But he could delay it.

As soon as they landed in the rainforest and the other guards had left, Glory turned to him. But just as she was about to ask, Deathbringer took off. he couldn't help it. He didn't want to leave her by herself but he couldn't answer that question. He couldn't explain how badly he'd failed. He ran off into the forest, unaware that Glory was following him. When he'd gone ran enough, Deathbringer stopped, panting. The emotions that had built up since the meeting got to be too much. He needed to blow off some steam. So, using all of his strength, he punched the nearest tree, letting out a cry of rage. He let his anger, frustration, and grief out on the poor tree, punching it repeatedly until his talons began to bleed. Finally, he sighed and leaned against the tree, pressing his head to the bark.

"Feel better?" Glory asked. Slowly, Deathbringer opened his eyes and looked at her. He nodded slightly, and closed his eyes, his head still resting on the tree. He didn't even notice her approaching until she wrapped her arms around his waist. "You don't have to tell me," Glory offered. "I was just curious." Deathbringer shook his head.

"No." he insisted. "You should know. I just.....I'm afraid to tell it."

"Then let's start with something easy." Glory suggested. "Look at me." Reluctantly, Deathbringer opened his eyes and glanced at her, at her beautiful green eyes. He felt himself relax as he stared. The hold she had on him was working its magic.

Glory let go of him and sat down on the ground, motioning for him to sit next to her. He did, and she took his talon in hers as he stared into her eyes still.

"What was her name?" she asked gently. Deathbringer broke away from the stare and looked at the ground. With a sigh, he answered.

"Quickstrike. Her name was Quickstrike." he replied.

"Who was she?" Glory asked. A small smirk made its way on to Deathbringer's face.

"She was an assassin. The only and the best assassin the Nightwing tribe had. She was my trainer. From the moment I hatched, I was to be her successor. She trained me day and night, never giving me a day off. I didn't go to lessons like the other dragonets. Instead, I trained. But she wasn't just my trainer." Deathbringer explained. The smirk faded from his face as he paused. Glory studied him. It was as if a mask had been lifted from his face as he spoke again. "She was my mother."

Glory's grip on his talon grew tighter. He squeezed her talon back, his eyes distant.

"What happened?" Glory asked, her voice soft.

"I was a master assassin by the time I was four. But it wasn't enough. She still pushed me harder, insisting that my skills could grow. She never treated my like a son. I called her mother once; she slapped me so hard I saw stars." Deathbringer began. He shook himself, shaking off the memory. "She was sent to the continent for a new strategy - targeted assassinations. I went with her. She trained me there too. Our first target was none other than Commander Tempest, first in command of the Seawing army. We were searching the islands for Blister's base when there was a storm one night. A hurricane." He paused again and shut his eyes, holding

back tears. Glory began to dread what she'd hear. "It was my fault. She told me that we had to land, but I spotted a Sandwing flying towards another island and made her stop. We followed the Sandwing instead." he paused again, forcing the words past the lump in his throat. "There was a flash of lightning. It hit her. She screamed and fell out of the sky. I tried to catch her, but it was raining and dark and I was too small and she was too heavy. We landed on the island and I tried to wake her up, but she wouldn't. So I hid her under some trees. Made it look like we were never there. I stayed with her for two days and she never moved. She barely breathed. But I knew that I still had to take care of the mission. The mission comes first. That's what she always told me. I knew that if it had been me that had been hit, she would've already done the mission. So, I did it. I killed Tempest and destroyed their alliance. It never even crossed my mind to move her. And then they found her and she was killed. I could've saved her. Every bone in my body wanted to rush in and kill them all, just to save her, but I knew that I couldn't. Everything would've been for nothing if I had. So I stayed put. I followed orders." he stopped again. Glory was silently crying now. It was impossible not to.

"I vowed something that day." Deathbringer continued. "I promised myself that it wouldn't happen again. That my mission no longer came first. That if I ever found someone else to care about, that I'd do anything to save them, even endanger my own tribe. I didn't even kill anyone for my next three missions. I couldn't do it." Glory looked at him.

He would do anything to save the dragons he cared about. Memories flashed in Glory's mind. He'd helped her escape the Nightwing island, risking her exposing the Nightwings secrets. Endangering his tribe. He'd taken the blame for that, and risked getting killed. Endangering his own life. He'd protected her every day since she had rescued him from the island. *I'm the very next dragon he ever cared about,* Glory realized. *I'm probably one of only a few that he cares about.*

"Deathbringer," she whispered, hugging him. "I'm so sorry."

Two Hybrids, Seawing Twins, and A Nightwing. What Could Go Wrong?

Out of the two dragonets, Joy was definitely *not* the smarter one. She was smart, but Rainkeeper was far more intelligent, just like their mother. Joy's intelligence was more like her father's. She noticed the little things. For instance, she knew that her father never slept during thunderstorms, that he would stand outside during them and flinch at every flash of lightning. She knew that the Nightwings were secretly grateful for Glory and that they did respect her. She knew that the birds of the forest wouldn't make a sound until the sun had completely risen in the sky. She knew that there was a Nightwing who would always fly during the night, but was never to be seen in the day. Joy noticed the little things, for it was the little things that connected to something big.

*****

A small Nightwing dragonet raced through the forest. His name was Nightflyer. Why was he running? Well, you see, Nightflyer didn't like to read. At only two years old, his father had made him start to learn how to read. Nightflyer hated it. He liked the stories that scrolls told, but he didn't want to learn to read them. Not yet, anyways. So, he ran from the lessons. His mother laughed at his predicament. She found it funny how different Nightflyer was from his dad. But he couldn't help it. His dad was the most scroll-obsessed dragon he'd ever met. And Nightflyer was the opposite. He liked to run and fly among the stars. He liked to play. His father liked to read and stay out of any possible danger. It was suffocating. Nightflyer couldn't ever imagine his dad being apart of the group that saved Pyrrhia from the war, even though he had been. But his mother, yeah, Nightflyer could definitely see *her* saving the world,

even with her occasional declaration of something that was going to happen in the future. Even though he knew they were fake, Nightflyer would still check his visions to see how far off she really was. That was another thing he kept from his parents - his power.

*****

Across the continent on the border of Mudwing-Skywing territory, was a dragonet. She hummed to herself slightly as she dug around the bank of a small river near the cave she called home. This dragonet was called Air. She was the perfect definition of a Skywing-Mudwing hybrid. She was a maroon dragon with beautiful brown eyes and a light brown color swirling into her scales near the edges of her wings. Even those that despised hybrids would have to admit that she was pretty. But no one outside of her family had ever seen her. That was the downside of living in an empty place. But Air didn't mind. She liked the solitude and peacefulness of her home. A muffled giggle shot up and Air's ears pricked up to hear. Silence. Air smirked and quietly walked over to a patch of tall grass, perfect for hiding in.

"AHA!" she yelled, pulling the grass apart. Sure enough, a tiny dragonet shrieked from his discovered hiding spot. "I got you!" she declared. The dragonet frowned and picked up a handful of the muddy ground and threw it at her. "SQUELCH!" she yelled as the dragonet laughed and ran from the grass. Air grabbed some mud and chased after him. "I'M GONNA GET YOU GOOD!" she promised. The little dragonet - Squelch - shrieked again and ran towards the cave. A red dragon with smoking scales stepped out of the cave as Squelch ran into her.

" Mommy help! She's gonna throw mud at me!" he cried. Sure enough, Air caught up to him and smushed the mud on her brother's head. The firescales dragon couldn't help but laugh.

*****

Elsewhere, on an island in the Bay of a Thousand Scales, twin dragonets wrestled in the sand.

"Take it back!" a sky-blue dragonet demanded, shoving her brother's

face into the sand.

"Never!" the muffled voice of a turquoise dragonet replied. "You are a swordfish face!" Not too far away, the two dragonets parents watched, amused.

"Seashell, remember that he still needs to breathe!" Their mother reminded her.

"Oh, right." the sky-blue dragonet -Seashell- replied, releasing her brother's head. With his head free, he flipped his sister off of him and lunged at her.

"Get her, Kelp!" Their mother exclaimed.

"Shouldn't we be stopping them from fighting?" Their father questioned. The dragonet's mother glanced at him.

"Of course you would think that, you lovable Squid-Brain." she replied.

A Friend

It was night, but not everyone was asleep. Nightflyer walked silently out of his family's hut, careful not to wake up his parents, or worse, his little sister. Firefly could barely fly, yet she loved coming with him anytime he'd sneak out and go flying with the stars. But Nightflyer didn't want to fly with her tonight. Once he was out of the hut, Nightflyer took off into the sky. He flew until dawn broke. But when he began to head back home, he caught sight of the sunrise. It took his breath away so much that he stopped on one of the Rainwing's platforms to watch it. It was beautiful. But Nightflyer wasn't the only one watching it.

Joy awoke early. She didn't know why, but it wasn't even dawn and she was wide awake. Quietly and stealthily, she snuck out of the hut, just as dawn broke. Many dragons said that Joy would grow up to be a great Queen, because of how much she loved her kingdom. It was true. Joy loved the rainforest with all her heart. She watched as the sun began to rise, until something caught her attention. There was a Nightwing sitting on one of the platforms, watching the sunrise. And she didn't know who it was.

Nightflyer thought that sunrises were peaceful. That they came at a moment when everything was quiet. And that they should *not* be interrupted by some crazy rainwing tackling you off the platform you were sitting on and pinning you to the forest floor. Joy, however, disagreed.

"What's your name?" Joy asked curiously. Nightflyer stared at her. She'd just tackled him out of the sky and she wanted to know his *name?*

"I'm Nightflyer." he said cautiously. "Can you please get off me?"

"What, you don't want to know who I am?"

"No, I would just like to have this conversation in a scenario where

you aren't pinning me to the ground." he insisted. She laughed.

"Alright cliche Nightwing name guy," she replied, releasing him. "My name is Joy."

"Well, nice to meet you, psychotic Rainwing with an emotion for a name."

"You're the Nightwing that goes flying during the night, aren't you?"

"Well, that's kinda've what my name implies so, yes." he replied. "Are you always happy and filled with Joy?"

"Great Mother of Moons NO." she exclaimed. "I'm usually....." she trailed off. Nightflyer thought to himself, searching his visions for this dragon. He could see that they were to be friends. Good friends, in fact.

"Murderous?" he guessed. "Threatening? Oh, how about hostile? Or sarcasm as a dragon. I like that one." Joy narrowed her eyes.

"Why did you guess those?" she demanded. Realizing his mistake, he replied.

"Oh, you know, the general impression, the fact that you tackled me off a platform for no apparent reason, your facial expressions, that sort of stuff." he explained.

"Oh,"

Suddenly remembering the time, Nightflyer glanced up. The sun had completely risen. Dragons would be waking up soon. Dragons like his parents. And if he wasn't there when they woke up... His eyes widened in fear.

"I have to go."

"Why?"

"My parents will be up soon and if I'm not there....I have to go." he repeated. Joy realized it too. If she wasn't in the hut when her

family was looking for her, all hell would break loose.

"Shoot, you're right. I have to go too." she agreed.

"I'll see you later." Nightflyer promised, taking off.

"See you!" Joy called after him, running home.

Little did either of them know that a great friendship had just begun.

The Order of Cruel and Unusual Punishment

He was whistling. Glory's face molded into an extremely annoyed expression. Deathbringer always followed her wherever she went, but lately, he'd just been plain annoying. He was enjoying himself, watching her grow more irritated by the second as he poked her and whistled, pushed her buttons and hummed. In his own defense, his job was a little boring. He stood around all day, following Glory around. Sure, he got to stare at her, that was a major perk, but it was dull listening to other dragon's problems. Annoying Glory just made his day a bit more interesting.

"Deathbringer," Glory said eloquently, with a bit of sass that made it sound like she was silently saying *I'm done with your shit.*

"Yes, your Majesty?" he replied dramatically. Glory frowned. She could easily tell Deathbringer off for bothering her, but maybe she could do something else; something that would make him appreciate his job. But what could she do? An idea struck her, and she grinned in a way that made Deathbringer hesitant to be cocky again.

"I have a new assignment for you." she declared. Deathbringer froze. Had he really gone that far? She couldn't really be replacing him, could she?

She wouldn't.

Would she?

But if he was reassigned, then who would protect her? What if it was someone horrible? Like Jambu? What if she got hurt because of his careless teasing?

Wait....Was she...*messing* with him? He let out a sigh of relief. That

had to be it. He was the love of her life, she wouldn't just toss him away.

He was wrong.

"It'll be perfect for you." Glory insisted.

"Alright," Deathbringer agreed, playing along. "What is it?" She grinned again before responding.

"I want you to train some Rainwings to be assassins."

****

Two days later, Deathbringer stood in a clearing, fuming about his new job. He didn't want it. He didn't like the idea of other assassins in his territory. The only dragons he wanted to train were his own kids, but Glory didn't like that, and Rainkeeper didn't really want to learn. He was too busy playing in the forest with Pear and doing who knows what else. Deathbringer especially didn't like how Rainkeeper and Joy had reacted to learning about his new position. Joy had laughed so hard that the berries in her hand were crushed. Rainkeeper was rolling on the floor at the very thought. Glory had thought it was amusing.

I'll show her, Deathbringer thought. *I'll make these Rainwings the second-best assassins in Pyrrhia.* That, however, was much easier said than done.

Three hours into training, Deathbringer was considering just killing them all.

All he'd asked them to do was to fly a couple laps around the clearing and to stretch. These were warm-ups. He expected them to be easy and done within a few minutes. He didn't expect to have three out of the six dragons he was training whine for an entire hour about how that was too hard and how their wings would get sore. By the time they got started, it was suntime. That was another issue.

"FOR THE LAST TIME! WE. ARE. *NOT.* STOPPING FOR SUNTIME!" he snapped. One of the dragons yawned.

"But I'm tired!" he exclaimed. Deathbringer snapped slightly. He walked over to the dragon and grabbed him by the neck, pinning him against a tree.

"You wanna say that again?" he snarled.

"Bu-but I'm-AK!" the Rainwing stammered. As he spoke, Deathbringer tightened his grip on the dragon's throat.

"What was that?" he questioned. The Rainwing kept quiet. Deathbringer released him and walked away as he collapsed to the ground. "LET'S TRY THIS AGAIN!" Deathbringer barked. "Drop and give me twenty!" The Rainwings stared at him in confusion.

"What's twenty?" One of them asked. Deathbringer let out a scream of frustration. As he yelled, laughter was heard from one of the trees. He glanced up at it to see Rainkeeper, Joy, and two dragonets he didn't know sitting in the tree, watching him and laughing.

"RAINKEEPER!" he yelled. "JOY!" The laughter stopped. "For that, YOU TWO GET DOWN HERE AND GIVE ME TWENTY!" he ordered. "YOU TWO GO HOME!" he told the other dragonets. They obliged. When she'd finished, Joy turned to her dad.

"Dad, if they won't listen, then how about we make this fun?" she suggested.

"How?" Deathbringer asked with a sigh. She whispered an idea into his ear and he grinned. "Alright!" he barked to the dragons. "New plan!" He stared at them for a moment, then continued.

"I want all of you to attack me."

And for once, they followed directions without another word.

The dragon he had pinned against the tree came sprinting at him, claws lunging for him.

Deathbringer neatly grabbed his arm and pulled so that he was bent over and slammed his elbow on the dragon's back, causing him to collapse to the floor.

Another dragon tried to attack from behind.

Deathbringer smoothly flipped the dragon over his head and smashed the dragon in front of him with him.

Joy and Rainkeeper watched from the back of the clearing as Deathbringer kicked the crap out of all of his 'trainees'. Not one of them even got a hit in. He punched the last dragon to the ground and turned around. No one was still standing.

"Is that all you've got?" he asked. No one replied. There were all unconscious. Rainkeeper blinked and glanced down at Joy. She was sitting there jaw-dropped.

"Dad?" she said amazement. "Can you teach me to do that?"

"No way," Rainkeeper insisted. "Me first." Deathbringer smiled as they began to argue over who he'd teach. They really were the only dragons he could train.

Later that night....

Glory walked into the hut to see Deathbringer standing there, glaring at the doorway.

"Yes?" she asked.

"I demand my old job back." he declared. She grinned at him smugly.

"Really, and what makes you think that you have the authority to demand it?"

"I know I have the authority." he replied. " Because I'm your husband and the King and if I have to keep training those ridiculous excuses for trainees then you're going to have a pile of dead dragons in your forest by the end of the week." She laughed.

"Any other reasons?"

"Yes." he began smugly. "Because you need me. And you missed me today and you luuuuuuuuve me." Glory bit back a grin and looked

at him.

"Oh I do, do I?"

"Oh, yes you do." Deathbringer insisted, picking her up and twirling her around.

"Deathbringer!" she yelled. "Put me down!"

"Not til you say it." Glory began to laugh as he spun her around and planted small kisses on her face.

"Alright!" she agreed through her laughs. "I love you." Deathbringer stopped spinning, but he didn't put her down.

"I know you do." he said smugly, kissing her again. "Can I have my job back?"

"Hmmmm." she thought for a moment. "Maybe."

"Maybe!"

"Yep." she replied. "We'll have to see how well you behave." He gave another smug grin.

"No promises on any good behavior." he declared. "But you already knew that."

Jade Mountain?

A/N: Warning, time skip.

"You're sure they're ready?" Deathbringer questioned, for about the hundredth time. Glory fought the urge to roll her eyes.

"I'm positive." she insisted. Deathbringer quickly hid the disappointment in his face, but not fast enough. Glory spotted it. "We can't keep them here forever." she told him, her voice gentler. "Rainkeeper is almost six already, he should've started two years ago. We've put this off long enough."

"They're still our dragonets," he retorted. "We can put it off a bit longer." Glory paused.

"I don't want them to leave any more than you do, but we have to let them go." she admitted. Reluctantly, Deathbringer agreed.

"Jade Mountain?" Rainkeeper said in shock.

"School?" Joy agreed, equally surprised. They'd never been outside the rainforest in their entire lives, and now they were being told that they would be leaving in just a matter of days, to go to some school where they wouldn't be home for months? It was insane.

"It's about time you started your education." Glory explained.

"But we have an education." Joy protested. "We can read and write, we know about history and all the tribes and how to fight. I know what I need to know to be Queen one day. What more is there?"

"JMA will teach you those things again, but it will also teach you to ignore the stereotypes of other tribes and help you to get along with them." Glory replied.

"I don't suppose we're getting a choice in this?" Rainkeeper asked.

"No. You aren't." Glory agreed.

*****

"Why are you punching a tree?" Nightflyer asked. Joy stopped and glanced at him.

"My stupid parents are making me go to school." she explained.

"That's not so bad."

"You don't get it." she insisted. "I have to go Jade Mountain. Which means that for the rest of the year I'll be in a cave learning things I already know instead of here." she paused. "I don't want to leave the Rainforest. I love it here. But my mother doesn't care about that. And I just know that everyone at that school will smother me because I'm a princess and I can to anything they want."

"It won't be that awful." Nightflyer promised. "You'll have Rainkeeper. And me. Plus, if you don't tell anyone that you're a princess, then maybe they won't know and you'll make real friends instead." he suggested. Joy looked at him.

"You know, that's a great idea." she realized. He held out his talons.

"That's what I'm here for."

*****

"What's wrong?" a soothing voice asked. Rainkeeper glanced up from the branch he was sitting on. Pear was studying him.

"Nothing's wrong." he insisted.

"You can't lie to me Rainy." she replied. "Your eyes have storm clouds in them."

Rainkeeper looked at her. How could he be expected to leave Pear all by herself? As far as he knew, she didn't even have any family. And if she did, she never talked about them. What if she fell when she was climbing and got hurt? That had happened loads of times. Rainkeeper would show up and she'd be covered in scratches, insisting that she'd just fallen again. He always wondered why she never caught herself and flew when she was falling. A million bad

things could happen to her while he was gone.

"I'm leaving." Rainkeeper admitted.

"What?" Pear said in surprise. "Where? Why?"

"I'm going to a school. Jade Mountain Academy. It's half a continent away, and I won't be back for months. And I don't get a choice." he explained. A sad blue color seeped into Pear's scales.

"I'm gonna miss you." she said sadly. An idea sparked in Rainkeeper's head.

"Maybe you could come to school with me!" he suggested. Pear's face fell.

"No." she confirmed, shaking her head. "No. I can't. I'm sorry Rainy, but my parents - they'd.....they'd never let me go." She itched one of the fresher scratches on her neck.

"Why not?" Rainkeeper asked. She shook her head again.

"My father.....he doesn't like it when I'm not nearby. He gets angry." she explained. Rainkeeper frowned. Something was off here, but he didn't know what, and Pear wasn't going to tell him.

"Alright." he agreed with a sigh. "But I'm going to write you every day, you hear? And I better get some letters back." he announced. Pear smiled at him.

"Of course Rainy. Did you really think that I'd let you leave for months without a word? Oh I know. I'm gonna send you jokes." she replied.

"Jokes." Rainkeeper repeated.

"Yep! I'm going to send you random jokes and you're going to open them at random times and burst out laughing and everybody'll think you're crazy. It's perfect!" she declared. Sad as he was, Rainkeeper couldn't help but laugh. "RACE YOU TO THE TALLEST BRANCHES!" Pear yelled.

"Oh you're on!" he exclaimed, climbing up the tree.

*****

Maybe....the two dragonets thought as they flew to Jade Mountain. *Maybe this won't be so bad after all.* But little did they know about what was in store for them.

Friends?

Yes.

Enemies?

Oh yeah.

Adventure?

You have no idea.

Love?

.....Maybe.

A/N: Just a couple things

So, this story has kind've drifted from it's original purpose, so do you want me to end it here and start a new book with Rainkeeper, Joy, Air, Nightflyer, Pear, and others.....Or do you want me to just keep going in this one?

I'm going to keep going either way, just should it be in a sequel?

Also....

How deep do you want this? Cause I have some things that I could include that aren't very light.

Plus, out of curiosity, what are your thoughts on these?

-Pineapple coming back into play.

-I go far enough into the future that Rainkeeper and Joy grow up and then I write about their lives as adults.

- A new war starts in Pyrrhia

-Joy, Nightflyer, Air, Seashell, and Kelp accompany Moon, Winter, and Qibli on their search for Icicle and Winter's brother

Please give me some feedback! I love this story and I love hearing how much you like it!

Let me know and I promise I'll be updating again in no time!

Also.....MY STORY WAS 5th UNDER THE GLORYBRINGER SEARCH TODAY!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! FREAKINGOUT!!!!!

They Finally Meet

A/N: This is gonna be a little inaccurate with books 6-9, but hey, it's a fanfiction; that means pretty much anything goes. BTW, YES, SOME PARTS ARE DIRECT QUOTES FROM THE BOOKS. DEAL WITH IT.

Joy watched, slightly amused, as an angry Skywing dragonet and a furious Seawing dragonet screamed at each other. She wasn't sure why they were fighting, but it seemed interesting enough. Interesting enough to stall for. Rainkeeper and Joy had onlybeen at Jade Mountain for a few hours, and already Joy missed the rainforest. They'd said goodbye to their parents, which was a lot harder to do then Joy expected. It hadn't really occurred to her that she wasn't going to be with them for a while. So, she found herself slightly clinging to Rainkeeper. His sleeping cave was on the other side of the school, but he'd agreed to come with her as she found hers. He wasn't going to admit it, but he didn't feel comfortable leaving his little sister alone.

Moonwatcher winced as the loud thoughts of other students yelled in her head. And all the thoughts were about one dragon. She peeked out into the hallway to see Clay holding apart two angry dragonets. A small Skywing dragonet was right by Clay, glancing around nervously.

Clay! the voices in Moon's head called. *It's him, it's really him! Oooo he's even cuter in real life. I think he looked at me!*

Great, one voice rang out, this one less excited than the others. *They love him already*. Moon frowned at that voice. Who had said that?

"It's only the first day folks," Clay announced. "Nothing to be so grumpy about already. You're probably both just hungry." He turned to the Skywing next to him. "Air, I'll talk to you later," he promised, before turning back to the fighting dragonets. "Carnelian,

take a deep breath and see me later. Pike, walk with me." With that, Clay and one of the dragonets walked down the hall. To Moon's alarm, the other dragonet - Carnelian- stormed into Moon's cave and slumped onto a rock ledge. Moon glanced back at the hallway to see the other Skywing dragonet looking equally alarmed.

"I guess that's one of my clawmates," Joy noted. Rainkeeper nodded.

"Have fun with her." he replied. He glanced at his sister. "I should probably go find my cave." he suggested. Joy hesitated.

"Alright." she agreed. "I'll see you later?" Rainkeeper nodded.

"I'll most likely be in the Art cave for the rest of the year if you should ever need me." he insisted. Joy smiled.

"Well, I'll be sure to drag you out every now and then." she promised. "Bye."

"Bye." he replied, walking down the hall. *Okay,* Joy thought. *Time to go meet the grouch-meister and whoever else I'm sharing a cave with.*

Moon stood awkwardly in the cave, debating whether or not to talk to the still fuming Skywing. Just as she decided against it, the other Skywing that had been in the hallway walked in.

Oh good, this dragon thought as she spotted Moon. *I'm sharing a cave with someone besides the angry Skywing. I hope this one's friendlier. She seems shy, yet nice. Maybe we'll get along. Well, we probably won't if we just keep staring at each other. What do I do? Duh, try talking to her. Genius, Air, genius. But what do I say? Small talk? Maybe ask her name? Maybe I should just say hi, yea. Do that. Hi is a start, right?*

It suddenly occurred to Moon that she probably should've said something during this awkward pause. But she hadn't, so....too late. As she continued to stare, Moon noticed some odd things. This dragonet had brown eyes. Skywings only had orange or yellow eyes. And this dragonet had brown scales on the corners of her wings. Skywings didn't have that. How come she looked different?

"Um, hi," the dragonet said suddenly. "I'm Air."

"Oh!" Moon said, snapping back to reality. "Hi, um. My name's Moon - I mean Moonwatcher, but really, just....Moon." she stammered. Air smiled shyly.

"You nervous too?" she asked. Moon nodded. Air let out a sigh of relief. "Good, I'm not the only one." she exclaimed.

"Um," Moon began. "I don't mean to be rude, but I was just wondering, uh, how come you look different?" *Ugh, smooth, Moon, real smooth,* she yelled at herself. "I mean...um..." she trailed off.

"Oh!" Air replied, catching on. "I'm a hybrid. My mother is a Skywing, but my father is a Mudwing. That's why. Um..." she paused. *Might as well get it out now,* she thought. "My father is Clay, actually."

"Cool," Moon responded. "I've never met a hybrid before. Or a Mudwing for that matter, or a Skywing. Or any other dragons really." she trailed off.

"Same." Air agreed. "This is the first time I've ever met any dragons outside of my family." she admitted. *My family,* she thought. *I wonder what Mother and Squelch are doing right now. Dad said they would visit....But when?*

"Then I guess we have something in common." Moon offered. Air smiled at her and glanced around the room. Still empty was a hammock strung from the ceiling, a moss bed, and a reed mat.

"So, I guess we have one more clawmate." Air realized.

"I guess so." Moon agreed.

As if on cue, a Rainwing dragonet burst into the room.

"So," she declared. "What's up?" The dragonet turned to Moon and Air and analyzed them. "You're a hybrid." she told Air, smiling at her.

"And?" Air asked.

"And so am I." the dragonet replied. Moon frowned until she spotted

the star pattern under the new dragonet's wings, and her silver eyes.

"Nightwing Rainwing?" Moon guessed.

"Yep!" she replied, surveying the room. "Anybody mind if I take the hammock?"

"No." Air insisted.

"Great." she exclaimed, jumping on the hammock.

"Oh!" she remembered, whacking herself on the forehead. "I'm Joy, by the way."

"I'm Air."

"I'm Moon."

"And whose that?" Joy asked, pointing at Carnelian. "Do we have to guess?"

"Please don't." Carnelian announced.

"Well I can clearly see which one of us is the happiest." Joy replied.

"Oh yeah." Carnelian insisted. "I'm so happy, I could die of joy."

"Haha. No pun intended." Joy suggested. "But that can be arranged if you'd like." she added, whipping out a couple of sharp discs. Moon's eyes widened.

"Ooooo," Air trailed off, walking over to get a closer look. Carnelian glanced over and spotted the blades. She jumped up and ran over.

"Can I hold one?" she asked. Joy nodded and passed one to her and one to Air. Moon slowly walked out of the cave as the others examined the weapons.

Not watching where she as going, Moon backed up into someone.

"Sorry!" two voices exclaimed as they jumped away from each other. Moon found herself looking at another Nightwing. He

frowned at her.

"You look like you've seen a ghost. What happened?" he asked.

"They put me in a cave of psychopaths." Moon declared.

The Nightwing glanced into the cave and smothered a laugh.

"Well," he began. "I don't know about the Skywings, but that Rainwing is definitely crazy." Moon nodded.

Joy glanced up at a familiar voice and spotted Nightflyer in the doorway, talking to Moon.

"Nightflyer!" she yelled, jumping off the hammock and running towards him.

"Hey Joy." he replied.

"I see you've met Moon." she noted. He nodded. "Air! Carnelian! This is my friend Nightflyer!" Joy called. Carnelian ignored her, but Air turned.

"Hi," she said. Moon nearly gasped at he thought that went through Nightflyer's head. *Wow,* he thought as soon as he saw Air. *She's beautiful. But those eyes....I've never seen a Skywing with brown eyes before. But they're not really brown- they're incredible. They look like sunrises in the rainforest.....I think she just topped everything on my list of the most beautiful things in the world.*

It took all of Moon's willpower to not react. She didn't need to have a vision of the future to know that he'd just fallen in love.

Boom.

The Rest Of The Winglet

A few minutes later, Moon found herself walking to the Prey Center with Joy, Air, and Nightflyer. The noise of the place made her want to scream. There was prey and yelling dragons everywhere. The small group stood in the entranceway as Clay began yelling.

"EVERYONE STOP MOVING!" he bellowed. "Especially you chickens! CHICKENS GIVE UP! WE'RE GOING TO EAT YOU! THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO ABOUT IT! STOP RUNNING AWAY RIGHT NOW!" Beside her, Air face-taloned and shut her eyes.

"What is it?" Nightflyer asked her.

"That would be my dad." she explained.

"Ooo fruit!" Joy exclaimed, flying off towards a mountain of fruit. "Come on guys!" she called back. The three of them flew after her and landed nearby.

"What are these things?" Air asked, holding up a pineapple. Nightflyer laughed.

"You've never had fruit before?" he asked. Air shook her head. Joy's jaw dropped.

"Oh my moons. Nightflyer, Moon. We need to educate her. Now!" she exclaimed. Nightflyer nodded, and handed Air some berries.

"Try these." he insisted. She looked at him skeptically.

"Trust me! They're delicious." he promised.

"Whewf," a voice behind them said suddenly. Air turned to see Clay. She smiled at him.

"Hi dad." she greeted him.

"Hey Air," he replied. "So, um.....my plan hasn't exactly gone as.....planned."he admitted.

"Dad, this place is MADNESS." Air insisted. Nightflyer nodded in agreement.

"I know," he agreed. "This, uh, wasn't exactly what I had imagined."

"SCAVENGER!" someone yelled. Clay frowned.

"We don't have any of those in here." he trailed off, wandering away. Air facetaloned again.

And you know what happened next, So...

The next day.....

Moon awoke with a start as someone pounced on her tail.

"GOOD MORNING!" an entirely too awake Air cried. "We get to meet the rest of our Winglet today! So....GET UP!"

"Alright." Moon said groggily. "I'm up."

"Yes!" Air replied. Air jumped off moon's bed and poked at Joy. "Come on! Wake up!" she announced. Joy didn't even move. Air ran over to one of the scroll racks and pulled out one. She threw the scroll at Joy and yelled.

"Time to wake up!" Without even opening her eyes, Joy reached out, caught the scroll, and threw it across the room; where it ended up smacking Carnelian in the face. Carnelian let out a yelp and shot up. Joy opened her eyes and glanced at her.

"That actually hit? Cool." Joy exclaimed.

"Get up!" Air urged. "We have to go meet our Winglets!" As if on cue, a loud gong echoed through the school. Carnelian reluctantly got up and left the cave. Joy and Moon followed Air sleepily down the hallway.

"Have you guys explored yet?" Air asked.

"No," Moon admitted.

"I've mostly been exploring the Art cave, but I know where everything else is too." Air replied.

"The art cave?" Joy said suddenly. "Where's that?" Air glanced at her.

"Do you like art?" she asked. Joy shook her head.

"Not really, but my brother is a huge artist. He'll probably be in that cave for the rest of the year." she explained. Air grinned.

"Well then I'll have to keep an eye out for him. What's his name?" she questioned.

"Rainkeeper." Joy replied.

Air, Joy, and Moon were the first group from their Winglet to show up. They were meeting with Tsunami.

I remember her, Moon realized. She thought back to yesterday, when she was still safely in her mother's wings. Queen Coral had arrived with three dragonets. As they had landed, a blue dragon-Tsunami- had reluctantly walked out to greet them. She had greeted two of the dragonets happily, but went stone-like around the actual Queen. They had glared at each other for a moment.

"I'm really not sure about this." Coral had said.

"It'll be fine." Tsunami had promised, her voice like steel. "I'll take care of Anemone."

"I am only letting this happen because Anemone has been badgering me about it every day since she got your message about the school." Coral explained. She turned to one of the dragonets. "But you can come home anytime, you understand? If you feel threatened, or lonely, or overworked, or tired-"

"I'll be fine," the dragonet promised.

"Who's this?" Tsunami had asked, looking at the third dragonet.

"This is one of your brothers." Coral explained. "Which one are you again?"

"Turtle." the dragonet replied. He didn't seem to mind that his mother didn't even know his name. Tsunami had smiled at him before turning back to her mother.

"So nice to see that you love all of your dragonets equally." she said sarcastically.

"Who cares about sons?" Coral asked. "They can't inherit the throne." There was a twinge of fury in Tsunami's mind.

"Well, not all dragons share that opinion. Some actually happen to care about their sons." she snapped.

"Please don't start this argument again." Anemone had begged. "Not here."

"Fine." Tsunami had agreed, shooting another glare at her mother. That conversation had caught Moon's interest. What had happened to make a mother and a daughter hate each other so much?

They weren't alone in the cave for long. A Mudwing and a Seawing dragonet walked in soon after.

"Umber!" Air yelled, barreling into the Mudwing.

"Hey Air." he replied.

"Hi Kelp." Tsunami said with a smile. The sky-blue Seawing smiled back, but in his mind one thought was on repeat. *Oh for the love of the moons, please don't embarrass me. Why couldn't you be Seashell's group? Why me!?* Moon bit back a grin at his embarrassment. But the grin faded fast as the rest of the Winglet walked in. It was them- Winter and Qibli.

"So," Tsunami began when they were all sitting in a circle. "How about we introduce ourselves. Anybody want to go first?" Nobody moved.

"Okay, I guess I'll start." she continued. "I'm Tsunami, obviously. I'm

Head of School, so I'm basically the boss. Oh, and fun fact, Kelp," she went on, gesturing to the Seawing dragonet. "Is actually my son. Next?"

"Well, I might as well go now." Kelp offered. "My name is Kelp. I have a twin sister in the Gold Winglet."

"I have a friend in the Gold Winglet." Joy replied. Kelp smiled at her.

"So um," Joy continued. "My name is Joy. I am a Rainwing-Nightwing hybrid if you didn't already know or figure that out. And if you are one of those dragons that assumes that Rainwings are lazy and useless, please, let me know and I'll show you just how 'lazy' I can be."

Ah, Qibli's mind went. *She's smart. Slyly threatening us before she even knows our names. Nice.*

"Okay," Air began. "My name is Air, and I'm also a hybrid, but of Mudwing and Skywing. Seeing as you'll all figure it out, my father is Clay. Um...I like art."

"Hi everyone." Umber went next. "I'm Umber. I'm Clay's brother. That's all I've got."

"Uh, I'm Moonwatcher, but please call me Moon." Moon insisted. "I like scrolls."

"I'm Qibli," he began. "I was one of Thorn's Outclaws before she became queen. My plan is to learn everything as fast as possible and then to get back to help her run the Kingdom of Sand."

"I'm sure she's lost without you," Winter said sarcastically. "I'm Winter."

"Queen Glacier's nephew." Qibli, Joy, and him all said at the same time. Air stifled a laugh.

"Don't mock me." Winter warned.

"I wouldn't dream of it." Qibli promised. Joy faked a gasp.

"Who would *dare* to mock such an important figure as Her Majesty Queen Glacier's nephew?" she declared. Air couldn't take it, she burst out laughing, ignoring the glare from Winter. *I like this dragon,* Qibli thought, slightly impressed.

"If you're Head of School," Winter said to Tsunami, "Does that mean you're the dragon to talk to about getting a private cave?"

"Why, yes I am." Tsunami replied. "The answer is no."

"But-" Winter began.

"Screw this, we're going hunting! Come on!" Tsunami announced. Kelp, Umber, and Air smothered their laughs and followed Tsunami out.

"Hey frosty-face?" Joy said to Winter. "I'm watching you."

Dreams and Dancing

Moon awoke suddenly and looked around. It was the middle of the night. Everyone was asleep, or at least, everyone else in her cave. Moon could sense four other dragonets that were awake. But in her cave, the other dragonets were deep in their dreams.

Carnelian was peacefully thinking about battling other dragons.

Joy was also dreaming about fighting, but it was different. Moon frowned at Joy's dream. In it, she was fighting a fiery-eyed Rainwing, but the fight wasn't going well for Joy. And as for Air's dreams, part of Moon wished she could jump into them and stay there forever.

Air was dreaming of a quiet little place, with a river and a cave home. In it, she was wrestling on the muddy bank of the river with a small Mudwing dragonet that had odd blue eyes. Out of curiosity, Moon found herself reaching out to the minds of the dragonets that were still awake.

One was reading, but anxious on the inside.

Another was doing some kind of calming ritual.

And a third....That was strange. The third dragonet was pacing the floor of his cave, worrying endlessly about the very same dragon Joy was fighting in her dream. Moon listened closer.

What if she finds us here? the dragonet thought worriedly. *We're unprotected, vulnerable. She'll take advantage of that. I can't let her find us- I can't let her get to Joy. But what if she does? Mother said we were safe here, so why doesn't it feel that way?* Moon frowned. Who was this dragon? And why was he so scared of that Rainwing getting to Joy? And, more importantly, Who was this Rainwing?

But before she could contemplate this more, something else popped

up, and Moon narrowed her eyes as she listened closer. *I see how you benefit from this plan, but I'm not hearing any guarantees for me. Killing is easy enough, but if I kill them, how do I know you'll tell me the truth? And what happens to him if they catch me?* one voice asked.

They won't catch you, a deeper voice that made Moon shiver said. *Just do it. Do this for me, and I'll give you the one thing you want most.* Moon froze in horror as realization struck. How could two dragons be talking in dreams? Dreamvisitors....and whoever it was, was planning to *kill* someone. But who at Jade Mountain would somebody be willing to kill? And who wanted them dead?

The next day....

Rainkeeper was in the art cave. It was awesome. There was every kind of paint color he could think of and he could use real canvases instead of bark! But he wasn't currently painting. Instead, he was examining the statues. There were dozens of small, talon-made statues of all sorts of dragons. They were incredible.

There was one of the Dragonets of Destiny that was amazing. You didn't have to be told that it was of them, you could just tell. It was that detailed. Rainkeeper thought that one alone must've taken a lifetime to make.

"Hi," a voice said suddenly, jolting him out of his own world. Rainkeeper glanced up to see an odd-looking Skywing dragonet walking in.

"Hello," he greeted her.

"Are you a sculptor?"she asked, nodding at the statues near him. Rainkeeper shook his head.

"Definitely not. There's no way I'd be able to make something that detailed. I'm more of a painter." he admitted. She smiled at him.

"I've never painted before." she replied. "But you like the statues?" she asked. He nodded.

"Oh yeah. They're amazing. I'd love to know who made them." he went on. She grinned.

"Well, you're in luck. She's standing right in front of you." she answered. Rainkeeper raised his eyebrows.

"You made these?" he said in disbelief. She nodded. "Wow." She smiled again.

"My name's Air." she replied, holding out a hand.

"Rainkeeper." he responded, shaking her hand. Suddenly, another dragon burst into the room and slammed her hands on either side of the doorway.

"WHY THE HELL DID NO ONE TELL ME THERE WAS A MUSIC CAVE!?!?" Joy screeched.

"Oh hi Joy," Rainkeeper greeted her. Air shrugged.

"Never came up." she offered. Joy stared at them.

"So," she said, relaxing slightly. "Air, I see you've met my brother. Brother, I see you've met Air." she noted. Rainkeeper nodded. "Well, now that that's settled," Joy began, walking over to them. "You're coming with me." She grabbed Air's hand and they ran out of the art cave.

Air grinned as they entered the music cave. Various dragons were playing odd instruments that she had never seen before. She spotted Umber playing one. She also noticed Moon standing awkwardly in the corner staring at an instrument in confusion. Nightflyer was on the other side of the room, talking with Kelp and another Seawing that she guessed was Kelp's sister. Joy had run across the room to them and was talking to Nightflyer about something. But their conversation didn't stop him from waving at her from across the room. Air waved back and went over to Moon.

"What is this thing?" she asked. Air looked at it. It was like some kind of box.

"I honestly have no idea." she admitted. "Maybe we have to blow into it?"

"I don't think so." Moon replied with a frown.

"Then I guess we have bang out talons on it." Air suggested. "Only two ways to play an instrument that I know, anyway." Moon let out a laugh and Qibli walked into the room. His eyes landed on the drums and he lit up, bee-lining over to them. In tune with the drums, that Qibli was surprisingly good at playing, the band began to play.

Joy lit up like a light at the music and grabbed a random dragon and began to dance. Nightflyer began to laugh until she pulled him in as well. Dragons were dancing all around and Air couldn't help but envy them. But it wasn't that way for long.

With a devious look that screamed ulterior motives, Joy grabbed Air with one talon, still holding on to Nightflyer with the other. Joy then jumped away, leaving Air to dance with Nightflyer. Moon laughed as a single thought went through both of their heads. *That sly dog.* Next thing she knew, Joy had pulled her in too. She got paired up with some random Seawing as Joy danced off to drag some one else in.

Nearly everyone was dancing, spinning around and clapping to the music. Joy smiled at the sight of Air, who was laughing as she swayed along to the music with Nightflyer. It was as if they were dancing to their own song instead of the one playing. But there was one dragon not dancing. Kelp was contently watching from the sidelines. Joy grabbed his arm.

"Come on!" she called. He shook his head ruefully.

"I can't," he insisted. Joy stopped.

"Why not?"

"I....I can't dance." Joy's jaw dropped.

"What do you mean you can't dance? It's so easy!" Kelp made a face.

"Not to me." She grabbed his talon.

"Just try, please?"

"...Alright." he agreed reluctantly. She grinned and pulled him in. But, turns out, Kelp was right. He could not dance. At all. Within two steps, he fell on his face and ended up dragging Joy down with him. She laughed as they lay there on the floor. Then she caught sight of his face that was bright red with embarrassment.

"Hey Kelp?"

"Yes?"

"I have a mission now. I am going to teach you to dance." she promised. Kelp looked at her in shock.

"Really?" he said in disbelief. She nodded.

"Really really, mango toes."

Boom. History.

It was time for history class. Moon walked alone towards the cave when pain suddenly stabbed her in the head. She gasped as a vision came.

The history cave, burning, Joy, Qibli, Winter, others, all of them burning, all of them dying. They kept coming as she stumbled to the cave, each vision worse than the last. *Sora weeping next to Umber's burned body. Air screaming in horror as everyone around her burst into flames.* It was horrible.

"What's wrong with you?" a cool voice asked. "Some kind of Nightwing seizure?" Moon looked up to see Winter staring at her. She glanced around desperately.

"Moon? Are you alright?" Nightflyer asked. He looked at her with concern, yet not with the curiosity Winter and Qibli felt. In the small part of Moon that wasn't terrified, she could see that he wasn't confused- that he understood what was happening to her, that to him, this was normal. But she didn't bother with that now. Winter was walking towards the cave.

"Don't go in there!" she yelled. Winter paused.

"Why?" Nightflyer asked gently. In a quieter voice, he leaned towards her. "Moon, what's going to happen?"

"Please! Please don't go in!" she cried. "Something terrible is going to happen!"

"How do you know?" Winter questioned, stopping. Moon let out a cry of frustration and clutched her head. She stumbled slightly and Qibli and Nightflyer lunged out to catch her. She broke away from them and stood in front of the doorway to the cave.

"No one can go in!" she declared.

"Calm down," Qibli urged. "You're having some kind of panic attack." Moon shook her head frantically.

"No, please listen."

"We're listening." Nightflyer promised. He glanced past her and spotted a few dragons in the history cave. Moon relaxed slightly, still panicked. Nightflyer slipped by her into the room.

"No!" she called after him.

"It's alright, Moon," he reassured her. "I'm just going to get everyone out. That way no one will get hurt if something bad does happen," Moon shook her head.

"No, please!" she cried.

"Moon? Are you okay?" Air asked from behind her.

"What happened?"Joy questioned.

"I'm not sure," Qibli admitted. "She just kinda've collapsed and is begging everyone to stay out of the cave."

"It's alright, Moon," Air insisted in a soothing voice.

"Is anyone still in the cave?" Joy asked. Qibli nodded as other dragonets showed up.

"There's at least three dragons," he offered.

"I'll get them," Air insisted, walking to the doorway.

"No!" Moon yelled, running. Air was in the doorway, Joy and Moon on either side of her. Qibli, Winter, Kelp, Seashell, Turtle, and a couple other dragonets were further down the hallway. That's where they all were when the history cave exploded, with four dragonets still inside.

Fire and Pain

Moments before the explosion...

Nightflyer walked into the history cave. But before he could warn anyone to leave, Tamarin grabbed him by the arm and inhaled deeply.

"Tamarin? What is it?" he asked. The blind dragon didn't respond. Instead, she gasped and rushed over to a scroll rack, pushing Nightflyer behind it before diving in herself. As soon as they hit the ground, the cave exploded.

Now....

The blast of the explosion threw everyone off their feet and onto the ground. The majority of the blast that erupted out of the cave was blocked by Air. She dove to the ground and spread her wings wide to shield Moon and Joy. Multiple dragons screamed and Umber and Sora ran off searching for Clay, for help. Smoke filled the air, as did the smell of fire. Air gasped as she remembered the dragons that were still in the cave- if they were even still alive. Air stumbled to her feet as everyone regained their senses.

"Air no!" Joy yelled as Air bolted into the cave. She didn't even feel the flames licking at her scales. She just searched for anyone, anyone there was a chance at saving. She spotted a dragon-shaped lump on the ground and grabbed it, pulling a hopefully unconscious dragon out of the cave.

In the hallway, Clay and Sunny froze dead in their tracks at the sound of a loud BOOM.

"What was that?" Sunny asked anxiously. Before Clay could respond, two dragonets came barreling down the hallway, coated in ash.

"Clay!" one of them yelled. He recognized it as Umber and rushed towards his brother.

"What happened?" Clay demanded. Sora was in a panic, and Umber could barely speak the words.

"The History cave exploded. There were dragons inside and more near the door." he said in a rush. Sunny gasped as Clay ran towards the cave. Somewhere in his mind, one thought registered. *Air had history now*. That thought only made him run faster.

In the end, four dragonets- Carnelian, Bigtail, Nightflyer, and Tamarin- were pulled from the flames before Winter put out the fire.

And out of the four, only Nightflyer and Tamarin survived.

"Tamarin," Joy said worriedly. She crouched by the unconscious Rainwing. "Tamarin, please wake up. We both know what Kinkajou will do if you're not okay." A nervous laugh escaped from her. Kelp knelt beside her and looked up at Clay.

"The lake," he said suddenly. "If we put her in the lake, it'll help her burns, won't it?" Clay nodded.

"That's a good idea. Is everyone else okay?" Clay asked. The other dragonets nodded. He turned to Air, who was sitting by Nightflyer, the only dragon to walk out of the cave without any serious injury. He was still a bit burned up though. Tamarin had unknowingly shielded him from most of the explosion. "Air," Clay began. He nodded at Nightflyer. "Can you take him back to the infirmary and patch up the burns?" She nodded. "Good," he continued. "And someone go find Tsunami, Starflight and Fatespeaker and let them know what happened." The dragonets nodded.

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"Thank you," Nightflyer said. Air turned to look at him. They were alone in the infirmary, or at least until Seashell came back from delivering sleeping darts. Or until Starflight and Fatespeaker heard what had happened.

"For what?" Air asked.

"For saving my life. I would've burned to death if you hadn't pulled me out." Air glanced down at the salve bottle in her talons as she sat down next to him.

"You don't have to thank me,"

"I know," he replied, smiling at her. "But I want to." She smiled, looking down at the bottle. She poured a bit of the liquid from it on a bandage.

"This is going to sting a bit," she warned him. He shrugged.

"Can't hurt more than the reason you're putting it on." She gave him a look and pressed the bandage on to the burn on his scales. Nightflyer let out a yelp and jumped away as Air laughed.

"I warned you!" she reminded him, still grinning. He nodded.

"That is the last time I won't take a warning seriously." he declared, smiling back at her.

"GUYS!" Joy yelled, running into the infirmary. "You busy?"

"Yes," Nightflyer muttered, quiet enough that Joy wouldn't hear. But Air did. She shook her head at Joy as she smothered her laugh.

"Good. Then come quick!"

"What happened?" Air asked, composing herself.

"Winter is threatening Moon because he thinks that she set the fire." Joy explained. They stared at her.

"Is he really that dumb?" Air questioned. Now it was Nightflyer's turn to smother a laugh.

"I don't know, probably. But he's demanding how Moon knew the explosion was going to happen." Joy went on. Nightflyer's face fell. He knew how Moon had known, but no one was ever supposed to find out about that. But if they found out the truth about Moon,

then what would stop them from finding the truth out about him?

By the time Nightflyer, Air, and Joy got there, they knew half of it. Turtle, Kelp, Seashell, and Qibli were standing around her in shock.

"What is it?" Air asked when they arrived.

"She has visions of the future," Kelp said in disbelief. Joy and Air gasped, but Nightflyer didn't react. He was the only one who tried to make eye contact with her, but she didn't look up.

"Who else knows you can do this?" Qibli questioned. "Can all Nightwings see the future?"

"No one knows," Moon replied softly. She looked up and met Nightflyer's eyes. A flash of confusion went through hers as she spotted the terror he felt at Qibli's other question. *Could it be?* she wondered. "And," she continued. "as far as I know, no one else in the tribe can do this."

"Is that it?" Turtle asked. "Or is there anything else we should know?" There was a pause as it registered in each dragon's head.

"Can you read our minds?"

Moon looked down and bit her lip. She knew what would happen if she lied. Tears began to brew in her eyes.

"Yes," she admitted. "I can. I'm sorry. I'm really sorry. I can't help it. It just happens; it's always happening. I can't turn it off. Please, please don't tell anyone." she begged.

"You know everything." Joy said quietly. "You know all of our secrets, don't you. *Don't you?*" her voice became angry. Moon shook her head frantically.

"No! Please, I really don't! I only know what you've thought, I can't dig through your heads or anything! I promise!" she cried. The thought that ran through most of their heads made her want to die.

But how can we trust your word when you've been lying to us all this time? How can we trust anything you say?

A Fiery Rainwing and a Romantic Nightwing Oh, What you hear in dragon's heads

The rest of the dragonets had run away from Moon, but for some reason Nightflyer had chosen to stay.

"You're not alone, you know." he told her. She glanced up at him, surprised that he was still there.

"What do you mean?" she asked. He glanced around to make sure no one else was there.

"I get them too. The visions." he admitted. Moon's jaw dropped.

"Did you know about the explosion too?" she asked. Nightflyer shook his head.

 "Your power seems much more advanced than mine. I rarely get visions, although they have been happening more recently. But mine seem to be much further into the future. It's strange." he explained. Moon frowned.

"Have you ever had one about a Rainwing with fiery eyes that was hurting someone?" she questioned. Nightflyer stared at her.

"Actually, yes." he admitted. "But I don't know who she is. In my vision she was- she....she slit Kelp's throat." Moon's eyes widened.

"We need to figure out who that dragon is." she insisted. Nightflyer nodded in agreement.

Moon walked into her sleeping cave and froze at the sight of Joy and Air. They glanced at her, then back at each other. Air nodded and they turned back to Moon.

"So," Air said slowly. "You can read out minds." Moon looked down at her feet and nodded.

"Got any questions?" Joy asked. Moon glanced up. She hadn't expected this.

"What do you mean?" she asked.

"Surely you've seen some things in our heads that have confused you. Is there anything you'd like us to set straight?" Joy explained.

"You're not mad?" Moon said tentatively.

"Well, that depends. Have you seen anything that would make us mad?" Air asked. Moon shook her head.

"I don't think so." she admitted.

"Then ask away," Joy insisted.

"Okay." Moon thought for a moment. Was this a trick? Some kind of plot to see if they could really trust her? She wasn't sure, but since they were insisting, she might as well try to get some answers.

"Joy. I, um. I can see into dreams too, and one night you were dreaming about a Rainwing with fiery eyes that was trying to kill you. I was wondering who she was." Moon told her. Joy's face remained emotionless, but her mind was much different.

"Why do you ask?" Joy demanded suddenly. "Have you had a vision about her? Is she going to come here?" Worry was creeping into Joy's head.

Rainkeeper. she was thinking. *If she's coming, I have to warn Rainkeeper.*

"I haven't had any." Moon promised. "Just curious." Joy relaxed.

"She's my cousin. My uncle's daughter. And well....Her name is Pineapple and we don't exactly....get along." she explained. Moon nodded. "Anything else?" She shook her head.

"No. Not really. Honestly, Air, this is going to sound weird, but I like it in your head. It's very peaceful. It's a nice change. Joy, on the other hand has a very....brutal way of thinking some times." Moon explained. Air laughed while Joy scowled.

"Is there anything we should know?" Air asked. "Anything you've heard in other dragons minds that we should me aware of?" Moon's eyes widened as she thought of what Nightflyer had been thinking about Air.

"Um." she mumbled. "There's something I could tell you, but I don't think that the dragon who thought it would like it if I told you." Joy frowned.

"What if you don't say who thought it? Or if you're just really vague?" she suggested.

"Okay." Moon agreed. "Air. So, um....There's a dragon here that likes you. A *lot*. Like, major crushing. And um...when he first saw you," she trailed off and her eyes got a dreamy look in them. "Oh, it was amazing. He went on in his head for like five minutes on how beautiful he thought you were. At one point, he said, and I quote 'I think she just topped everything on my list of the most beautiful things in the world.'" Air blushed redder than anything. Joy's jaw dropped. She ran over and grabbed Moon by the shoulders.

"Who is it? TELL ME!!! I NEED TO FIND THIS DRAGON AND PUT THEM TOGETHER!" Joy yelled. Moon couldn't take it. She burst out laughing. It was hilarious because Joy already knew the dragon.

"You know him!" Moon blurted out. Joy froze, searching through names, including the truth. Air sat on her bed, with a silly grin on her face.

"WHEN I FIND OUT WHO IT IS!" Joy warned. Moon only laughed harder. They didn't hate her. What more could she ask for?

Thoughts, a visit, and a crack

In the Rainforest....

Glory frowned as she slept during suntime. She had been deep in a dream when Sunny had oddly appeared. She knew what this meant. Sunny was dreamvisiting her, and by the look on the Sandwing's face, it wasn't to say hello.

"What happened?" Glory asked, skipping any greetings. Sunny glanced down, her face a mixture of shock and grief.

"There was an explosion." she said softly. "In the history cave. Two students died and a couple more were injured." In the real world, Glory's scales went bright green and white before they calmed down. Deathbringer frowned at her, wondering what was making her nervous.

"Who died?" Glory demanded. Fear was seeping through her. Joy and Rainkeeper were alright, weren't they? They *had* to be.

"A Skywing dragonet named Carnelian, and a Nightwing dragonet named Bigtail. We figured you should know in order to notify his family." Sunny replied. Glory nodded, secretly relieved. "But there's one more you should know about." Sunny added. "Tamarin was hurt pretty bad in the explosion. Clay's trying his best, but he's not sure if she's going to be okay." Glory froze. Tamarin was hurt? Oh no. Not Tamarin. What about Kinkajou? Glory didn't want to know how her over excited friend would react if Tamarin died.

"Is that all?" Glory asked, praying that it was. Sunny nodded.

"We're addressing the students tomorrow, and are announcing that if anyone wants to leave that there will be dragons to escort them

home." she explained. "If you have any dragons that would be up for it then it would be helpful." Glory thought for a moment.

"Don't worry." she told Sunny. "I'll come."

Air was horrified as the Dragonets of Destiny addressed the school. Leave JMA? Why would anyone want to do that? What if her friends decided to leave? Or worse....what if her father didn't think it was safe for her to stay and sent her home? Air loved her mother and Squelch and she missed them, but she didn't want to leave JMA. Not when she was having the best time of her life, well, minus all the explosions and death and potential murders going on...

Joy stared wide-eyed as the teachers talked. This was it. She was sure of it. Mother and Dad were going to show up any minute and drag her and Rainkeeper home. Despite herself and what she had originally thought about going to the school, Joy didn't want to leave. And she knew for a fact that Rainkeeper didn't want to either. They were going to have to pry his cold dead talons off the art cave wall to get him home. Joy liked the excitement of JMA. It was a lot more interesting than sorting fruit in the forest.

Nightflyer listened nervously. Mother and Father wouldn't send him home, would they? Sure, they'd probably like the idea of knowing who was watching over Firefly while they were here, but they'd also have to deal with the fact that their dragonets were alone at home while they were teaching at school. It all seemed kind of backwards if you asked Nightflyer. Sure, he missed his odd little sister, but he was not leaving. There was no way he was going to leave Air. Oh, and Joy, and Moon, and Qibli, Kelp, Winter, and the rest of the friends he had made. But...secretly, it was mostly because of Air. Damn that hold she had on him.

The next day, Glory, Deathbringer, and the other dragons that would be guiding students home, Six-Claws and Reed, arrived at JMA. Joy was walking to the Prey Center when she spotted her parents. She thanked the moons that she was alone before rushing over.

"DAD!" she yelled, barreling into Deathbringer. His face broke out in a huge grin as he hugged her.

"Hey Joy." he greeted her.

"Don't hog her all to yourself," Glory commented, pulling Joy into a hug of her own. Joy inhaled deeply, and sure enough, they smelt like the rainforest; like home.

"I missed you," she mumbled.

"We missed you too." Glory declared, squeezing her again before releasing her. "Now, where can we find that brother of yours?" she asked. Joy grinned.

"I'll go get him!" she announced, running down one of the hallways.

"Call me crazy," Deathbringer began. "But I think she got older." Glory grinned.

Air glanced up from her sculpture as a familiar bang sounded on the door frame.

"Hey Joy," Rainkeeper greeted her, not even looking up from his painting. Her entrance was common. Joy bolted across the room with a big grin on her face, and grabbed Rainkeeper.

"Come with me, she ordered.

"Why?" he questioned. She stared at him.

"They're here." she told him. Rainkeeper dropped his paintbrush and ran out of the room with Joy, leaving Air extremely confused.

Deathbringer glanced up at the sound of fast approaching talons. Not a moment later, Rainkeeper and Joy burst in. Rainkeeper ran over and hugged them.

"What are you doing here?" Joy asked, clinging to her dad.

"Sunny asked us to come and escort the students from the rainforest that want to go home." Glory explained. Their eyes widened.

"Do we have to go?" Rainkeeper asked. Deathbringer and Glory exchanged a glance.

"Do you want to?" she questioned.

"No!" they said in unison.

"Then you don't have to." Deathbringer assured them. Rainkeeper let out a sigh of relief.

"Have you made any friends?" Joy nodded.

"I've made a whole bunch. I'm friends with Clay's daughter Air, and Tsunami's twins, Kelp and Seashell. I'm also friends with a Sandwing named Qibli, a Seawing named Turtle, and an Icewing named Winter." she replied.

"I am friends with Air too." he said briefly. "That's all."

"Okay," Glory said encouragingly. "Don't be afraid to make more." Rainkeeper smiled at her.

"I'm not."

Later....

Moon glanced around at her friends in the Prey Center. Most of the Winglets didn't really stick together when they didn't have to, but Moon's did a little bit. Winter never sat with them, of course, but the rest of them usually did. The group would always sit on an area of rocks near the fruit pile. Nightflyer and Air would sit on one rock, Kelp and Seashell on another, and Joy, Moon, and Qibli on the last one. Moon frowned.

"How do you do it?" she asked. They glanced at her.

"Do what?" Joy asked.

"Go about your day not hearing any thoughts but your own." Moon explained.

"It's simple," Qibli offered. "We don't know any different. We don't know what it's like to hear anyone else's thoughts, and you don't know what it's like to just hear your own. So, it's easy for us because we're used to it." he explained. Before Moon could reply,

Nightflyer gasped and a loud *CRACK* echoed through the cave as a stalactite fell from the ceiling and plummeted right towards a group of Icewing students.

Icewings Caused All The Problems Here.

The Prey Center launched into chaos as the stalactite fell from the ceiling at Icicle. Moon cringed at all the voices of panic and thoughts. She tried to focus and find the mind that had wanted Icicle dead, but it was no use. Someone tugged at her arm and Moon spun around to see Nightflyer staring at her, a look of terror on his face.

"Icicle's working for Queen Scarlet." he said suddenly. "She's going to kill someone for her. Tonight. But that's not why she almost died right now." It registered in Icicle's head just as Moon got a grip on it. Her eyes widened as Nightflyer's look of horror grew.

"Sora." they said in unison.

There was chaos in the room. Qibli tried to make sense of it, but it didn't make sense to him why Nightflyer had gasped. He hadn't been looking anywhere near the stalactite when it had fallen. But the short conversation Nightflyer had just had with Moon distracted him. Moon bolted from the Prey Center and Qibli ran after her. Nightflyer stayed behind with the others, presumably catching them up.

Soon After...

Nightflyer wandered the halls, searching for Qibli and Moon. Icicle was going to kill someone tonight, someone important, but he didn't know who. Pounding footsteps caught his attention as Moon and Qibli came sprinting down the hall. They looked terrified and were oblivious to the fact that he was even in the hallway. So they didn't notice when Nightflyer trailed after the group either.

Moon burst into the library with Qibli right behind her.

"Starflight! Look out!" she cried as Icicle jumped on the librarian. The Icewing quickly had Starflight pinned and she held her sharp talons threateningly at his throat. Nightflyer froze in horror at the scene. His dad was going to die. Right before his very eyes. Oh Moons. Oh no. He couldn't let that happen. He slowly snuck into the library as Moon and Qibli tried to negotiate with Icicle.

"I see you edging closer Sandwing," she warned. Nightflyer froze again, praying that she hadn't spotted him. And then, everything happened all at once.

Icicle shot frostbreath at Qibli just as Moon shove him out of the way and hit the ground with a scream. Adrenaline surged through Nightflyer. How dare she hurt his friends? How *dare* she threaten his family? He jumped up on Icicle, throwing her off guard and causing her to lose her grip on Starflight. The two dragonets tumbled to the ground and rolled into a pile of scrolls. Qibli rushed to try and help him, but Icicle threw Nightflyer off of her and tossed Qibli towards the librarian desk. Moon wanted to help, but all she could do was watch. The amount of emotion coming from these two dragons was enough to shove her through a wall. There was so much rage and fury. Nightflyer was angry beyond belief, enraged at what Icicle had even threatened to do. Icicle was furious that they had interfered, but she was also fueled by grief as much as rage.

Starflight watched in fear as Nightflyer fought on the ground with Icicle. When had his son even entered the room? Starflight thought for a moment, trying to wrap his head around what had just happened. He'd almost just died and he'd been saved by his own son, and two other dragonets. Not to mention the fact that it was one of his own students that had nearly murdered him. Fatespeaker was right, he thought in all the madness, Nightflyer really couldn't be more different from him.

Nightflyer was bleeding from many places, but he could see that he wasn't the only one. He'd managed to pin Icicle slightly to the ground, but she was still fighting with her back talons. He needed both his talons to keep her pinned, so he started searching for a weapon he could use.

But they were in a library. What weapons could there be in here?

Icicle took advantage of his distraction and threw him off her. She flipped around to attack Moon, but was suddenly smashed on the head with something. Something hard. Nightflyer, after being thrown off, had crashed into a pile of scrolls. He grabbed one and got to his feet, rushing back over to Icicle, where he slammed the scroll at the back of her head as hard as he could. She let out a cry and whipped around, shoving him to the ground before taking off out the window of the library.

Nightflyer collapsed on the ground with relief as she left. He glanced down at the scroll in his talon. It was covered in the blue blood of Icewings. He sat up as Starflight came running over to him. Nightflyer glanced over to see Moon helping Qibli up. They seemed okay enough. He turned back to his dad.

"Sorry," he offered, holding up the scroll. "Broke rule number one, No blood on the scrolls." Starflight let out a nervous laugh and pulled his son in for a hug.

Later....

Nightflyer and Starflight sat next to each other in the infirmary. Clay and Tsunami were staring at them in shock as Air carefully wrapped bandages around their cuts.

"Your burns haven't even healed, and yet, here I am, putting more bandages on you." she remarked to Nightflyer. He gave her a small smile as she shook her head. Fatespeaker came into the room suddenly, and let out a sigh of relief as she saw them. Air stepped away as Fatespeaker pulled the two Nightwings into a hug.

"You boys..."she commented, rubbing the spot between her eyes. She sighed. "Oh, who am I kidding, I'm just glad you're okay." she admitted, hugging them again.

"You two should probably head off to bed." Tsunami suggested, gesturing to Nightflyer and Air. They nodded and left the room.

They met up with the others down the hallway, where Nightflyer found himself being bombarded with hugs from Moon, Joy, and Seashell.

"So, you're telling me." Joy began. "That there was a fight. And you guys got to beat the bad guy. AND I MISSED ALL OF IT!!!!"

"Joy's not taking it very well." Kelp noted.

"Oh shut up." she told him. He stuck his tongue out at her and she glared back. Moon grinned slightly.

"Guys!" a voice called at the from down the hall. They turned to see Turtle running towards them. "We've got a problem." he insisted.

"Oh no." Seashell commented.

"Whatever it is, keep Nightflyer out of it before he gets himself killed." Air pleaded.

"What is it?" Moon asked.

"Do I get the chance to kill someone?" Joy questioned.

"Hopefully not." Kelp pleaded.

"Just tell us." Qibli insisted.

"Well," Turtle began. "Winter's missing. He's just....gone."

Everything Just.....Fell Apart. Really Fast.

"Winter!" a voice yelled. Winter spun around to see his Winglet and more flying towards him. Air, Seashell, Kelp, Joy, Qibli, Nightflyer, Turtle...and Moon.

"What are you doing here?" he demanded.

"Looking for you," Moon replied.

"I'm not going back to Jade Mountain." he said firmly. "I'm going to look for my brother."

"I thought so." Moon said softly. "We want to help you."

"We do?" Joy said with a frown. Her eyebrows furrowed. "When was that the plan? Cause I did not agree to that plan." Ignoring her, Winter turned back to Moon.

"You can't come with me." he insisted. "I'm going to Queen Glacier. I need to explain it all to her and get her to help me find Hailstorm."

"Wouldn't it make more sense to go to the Sky Kingdom?" Nightflyer asked.

"Or you could go after Icicle," Kelp suggested.

"I don't know where she's gone." Winter said bitterly.

"I have a guess," Qibli began. "you won't like it though," he added, nodding at Joy. "I think she's gone to the rainforest. She knows that the one Scarlet hates the most is Glory - everyone knows that, if they know the story of what Glory did to her face. So I think Icicle might think that if she kills Glory, Scarlet will forgive her for failing to kill the others." There was a pause.

Joy clenched her talons, attempting to keep her emotions in check.

There was no way, *no way,* that she was going to let her mother be harmed.

"I'm going to the rainforest." she declared fiercely. "There is no way that I am letting her be killed by a pointy, pompous, frosty-faced, mango-brained moron like Icicle." Her scales had turned bright red in fury.

"Fine. You go after her. I'm going to Queen Glacier." Winter replied coldly.

"That can't be your plan." Air insisted. "Go home? By the time you get there your brother could be dead. Your best bet is to catch Icicle."

"Before Joy violently rip her to shreds." Nightflyer added.

"I don't need help from any of you." Winter growled.

"You do, actually." Joy commented. "You won't get two steps into the rainforest alone. But with me, and two Nightwings? You'd actually have a chance at survival."

"And even if you find Scarlet," Qibli continued. "Do you think she'll just tell you where your brother is? Wouldn't it be useful and much more effective to have a mind reader with you?"

"Um," Turtle said suddenly. The Seawing seemed even more green than usual. "Are we really doing this?" he asked. Winter looked at him. It was easy to see how to get rid of this dragon, and if he was lucky, it would work on Kelp and Seashell too.

"You should go back." he told the Seawing. "You don't want to tramp around Pyrrhia looking for my deadly sister, who will kill you on sight, or my brother, who might do the same because killing Seawings was a specialty of his." Turtle paled and Kelp blinked in surprise. Seashell's expression didn't change in the slightest.

"It's all right if you don't want to come." Moon added. "You could go back to Jade Mountain. You can tell them that we're safe and where we've gone."

"That's true!" Turtle agreed, nodding and backing up. "I'll do that." With that, he took off gratefully towards the school. Winter fixed his stare on Kelp, wondering what small detail he would need to convince this dragonet to do the same. But instead, Kelp glanced over at Joy, her scales red and black, her face determined and impatient. He relaxed slightly and set a determined look on his face as well. Winter could see that he wasn't going anywhere. Not now.

"You're not getting rid of the rest of us that easily." Seashell assured him.

"So we're all staying? Good. Let's not waste any more time, shall we?" Joy said. With that, she took off into the sky, heading for the rainforest. Kelp flew after her, Seashell following behind him with the others. "COME ON FROST FACE! I HAVEN'T GOT ALL DAY!" Joy yelled back. Winter growled slightly before taking off with them. He hoped that he wouldn't regret this.

Glory frowned as a horrified Sandwing stepped into her dreams.

"What happened?" she asked nervously. Sunny opened her mouth to speak, but nothing came out. She closed it and thought for a moment before trying again.

"Everything just....fell apart. Really fast. Um....So. It turns out that Icicle, one of our students, has been working with Queen Scarlet this whole time and was plotting to kill us, Sora was the one who blew up the history cave because she was trying to kill Icicle, Icicle tried to kill Starflight and three other students in the process, And now, Sora and Umber ran away because they think that Ruby will want to kill her to avenge Carnelian, Icicle is gone, and AN ENTIRE WINGLET HAS DISAPPEARED TO GO CHASING AFTER ICICLE BECAUSE APPARENTLY SHE'S ON HER WAY TO THE RAINFOREST TO COME KILL YOU!" She said in panic. Glory's jaw dropped.

"Slow down!" she cried. "Is Starflight okay?" Sunny nodded.

"Are the students that tried to help okay?" Glory asked.

"I don't know," Sunny replied. "Because they were three of the students that disappeared!"

"How many students are gone?" Glory asked nervously.

"Eleven. Icicle, Sora, Umber, Winter and the rest of his winglet, plus two more dragonets." Sunny explained. Glory looked at her miserably.

"We have thirty-five students. And eleven of them are gone." she repeated. Sunny nodded. "THAT'S NEAR A THIRD OF OUR STUDENTS SUNNY!"

"I know!" the Sandwing insisted. "We're not sure when they left, but all I know is that EVERYTHING IS A MESS! Clay is freaking out because one of the dragonets that left was Air, Starflight is the same way because Nightflyer was another, and Tsunami is threatening to murder everyone if something happens to Seashell and Kelp, who are also gone! Not to mention the fact that I have to somehow explain to my mother how I lost her left-hand man and I also have to explain how two students died and two royal ones are MISSING! I KNOW GLORY! I'M FREAKING OUT AND BELIEVE IT OR NOT, I'M A LITTLE STRESSED. I KNOW!!" she shouted. Glory stared at her as she calmed down.

"So. Now that that's out of your system, how many dragonets are supposedly coming here?" she asked.

"Nine. Including Icicle, who is coming to kill you." Sunny replied with a sigh. Glory snorted.

"Don't worry about that. An Icewing dragonet won't be much competition for Deathbringer."

"There's one more thing," Sunny said tentatively. "One of the dragonets that's gone missing.....is Joy."

In The Jungle, The Mighty Jungle, The Icewing Is Pissed Off!

It was official. The Rainforest was definitely the worst place Winter had ever stepped foot in. It was sticky and humid, not to mention all the bugs and THAT CONSTANT IRRITATING BUZZING NOISE COMING FROM EVERYWHERE! He couldn't wrap his head around the fact that Icicle was supposed to be here.

Air couldn't understand how it had taken her this long to come to the rainforest. It was awesome. Everything was nice and warm and the ground was squishy with mud. Actual mud! It was glorious.

Seashell wouldn't admit it, but she was starting to despise the rainforest. It was far too hot, and not it a good way at all. Kelp, on the other hand, loved it. It was as if the air itself was hugging you and it was so full of life.

The odd group of dragonets had stopped near a riverbank, where Winter was examining a tree frog, wondering if it was edible.

"Don't eat it," Nightflyer warned. "Tree frogs do some strange things to the dragons that eat them."

"That one in particular will give you hiccups and odd hallucinations." Joy offered. "Not worth it."

"How do you know that?" Air asked. Joy shrugged.

"It's my rainforest. I need to know everything that goes on in it."

"Is that a sloth?" Seashell questioned, pointing up at one of the trees. Winter glanced up at the small grey creature.

"Finally," he remarked. "Something worth eating." There were yells from Moon, Joy, and Nightflyer as he went towards it. They tackled him to the ground before he could reach it.

"Sloths are *NOT* food!" Joy cried, her scales red with anger. "Then what are they? Decorations?" Winter demanded. "Is anything in this moons blasted forest edible!?!?"

"Sloths are rainwing's pets." Moon explained, plucking something out of a tree. "And yes. We have these," she offered, handing him a piece of fruit. Winter's snout crinkled in disgust.

"No way. Get that vile thing away from me." he proclaimed. Joy let out a growl.

"You know Winter, it is getting more and more difficult not to bite you." she warned him.

"Someone's coming," Moon said suddenly. "Someone with dark thoughts." She paused, thinking. "It's Obsidian....Okay, they've gone by." "

So, we're all on board with avoiding Nightwings, then?" Qibli asked. "Excellent. Present company excepted, of course."

"Maybe not all Nightwings, but definitely him." Moon replied. "Maybe I should tell the queen about what I can do..." she trailed off. Joy nodded.

"She would probably like to know. It could be a very useful power." she agreed.

"But how would anyone know if she was lying?" Winter asked.

"I wouldn't lie!" Moon insisted.

"How do we know that?" Winter demanded. "And even if you wouldn't lie, what about other Nightwings? They've lied before, haven't they? The entire tribe is full of liars, going back thousands of years to the Darkstalker and his cursed mother Foeslayer." At the word Darkstalker, Nightflyer, Joy, and Moon all jumped in fear. The three of them momentarily started hyperventalating.

"Who's Darkstalker?" Qibli asked.

"He's our...legend." Moon said.

"Nightmare." Nightflyer offered.

"Ghost monster from the beyond." Joy added.

"Whatever." Moon replied. Before anyone could respond, Moon's eyes widened. "They're coming back. Obsidian and a rainwing guard. We should-"

"Hello!" Joy yelled out.

"Not do that." Qibli finished.

"What are you doing back here?" The Rainwing demanded, staring at Joy. "You were supposed to stay at that school the queen sent you to! I told her that you would definitely fail or run off, but would she listen? Mysteriously not! And now here you are!"

"Well, I'm sorry to disappoint you, Bromeliad, but I just happen to have found something more worth my time. Now, if you'll excuse us, I'm taking my friends to see the Queen." Joy replied.

"You're the peculiar dragonet," Obsidian noted, looking at Moon. "Failed school already? Did they realize you can't talk and send you back? What's with the multicolored escort?"

"Don't talk to her like that." Joy snapped. Obsidian turned to her, but something in the look on Joy's face made the Nightwing shut up.

"We're here to see Queen Glory," Qibli explained.

"I'll have to take you to the Nightwing village. That's the protocol for new dragons in the forest. We'll send her a message and if she wants to see you, she'll come find you there." Obsidian offered.

"You have *got* to be kidding me." Joy commented. "You *do* know who I am, right? Because judging by how you've acted so far today, I don't think you do."

"Joy, just let it go." Kelp suggested. Joy let out a growl before agreeing.

The Nightwing village was far from what Winter had expected. But, then again, he had always imagined himself destroying it. He caught the looks on Nightflyer and Moon's faces as their eyes searched through the village, looking for their families, he presumed.

"Mother!" Moon cried suddenly, her whole face lighting up as she ran over and barreled into a tall thin dragon that looked a lot like Moon.

"Moon!" the dragon gasped. Winter frowned as the dragon hugged Moon back with fierce affection. Icewings didn't hug like that. Or hug, for that matter.

"I didn't get thrown out." Moon promised, smiling at her mother. "I didn't do anything wrong and nobody- that didn't happen Mother."

"Shh," her mother replied, eyeing the odd group of dragons warily. "But I did make friends!" she continued, turning to the group.

"Oh no." Joy said suddenly.

"What?" Kelp asked.

"Hide me." Joy replied, ducking into the center of the group.

"What?"

"No, stop!" Seashell cried suddenly. "He's not-" Before she could finish, Winter found himself being pinned to the ground as an unfamiliar dragon sat on him.

Back in the group, Joy couldn't help herself. She burst out laughing.

Joy? You Aren't Supposed To Be Here....

"Stop it!" Moon yelled. "Get off him!" The group of dragonets was losing it as Deathbringer sat on top of Winter, pinning him to the ground.

Most of them were attempting to get Deathbringer off of him.

And then there was Joy, who was laughing her head off at the whole situation.

"He's on our side!" Seashell insisted. "Or he was before you attacked him for no reason! Now he'll never like us again!"

"I wasn't going to anyway!" Winter shouted. "I didn't like you before either! I don't like any of you! And I'm going to MURDER this Nightwing!" Joy barked out a laugh.

"Please try that!" she exclaimed. "Seriously! Winter, I would *love* to watch you try to kill him. Do you *know* how entertaining that would be?"

"Wow Winter, tell us how you really feel." Kelp added sarcastically. Joy shot him a grin.

"I don't know," Deathbringer remarked. "He sounds kind murderey, and we heard there's an extra dangerous Icewing on the loose right now, so I'm just gonna keep sitting on him til I get further instructions." Joy let out a long suffering sigh and pushed her way to the front of the group.

"I'm instructing you," she offered. "He's not the dangerous one. That's his sister."

"Joy?" Deathbringer said in shock. Winter frowned at the change in his voice. "What are you doing here?" he demanded.

"Uh..." Joy mumbled.

"DEATHBRINGER!" a new voice yelled.

"Crap." Joy muttered, diving towards the safety of the group as Queen Glory came into view. "What are you doing?" Without a second thought, Deathbringer flashed her a smug grin.

"Saving you, protecting the forest, defending our home, being dashingly handsome, sitting on a very cold Icewing." he replied. "You know, the usual."

"All right. OFF!" Glory said firmly, grabbing him by the arm. "I am going to replace you as my bodyguard if you seriously can't tell the difference between a male Icewing traveling with seven other dragonets and a lone female Icewing out to kill me. And we both know what happened the *last* time I had you replaced, don't we?" Deathbringer gulped and Joy smothered a laugh, but not good enough. Glory turned and saw her. She stared at her dragonet for a moment. "Later." she warned, her voice emotionless. That one word wiped the grin straight off Joy's face. She could be scary sometimes.

"Sunny told me some of the details, but I'm sure you all have your own side to fill me in on?" Glory asked as they walked through the forest.

"I can fill you in," Joy insisted, hoping to get back on her mother's good side. "Winter's sister Icicle has been conspiring with Queen Scarlet in order to get their brother Hailstorm, who everyone believed to be dead, back. So, Icicle tried to kill Starflight to get him back, but Moon, Qibli, and Nightflyer heroically stopped her and I missed everything. But then Icicle ran off so we figure she's coming here to kill you to make up for her failure, so we came to help stop her again and also to interrogate her so we can go find Hailstorm ourselves. Also, Hello, good to see you, How are things?" Glory gave her a look that clearly said that Joy was far from off the hook.

"You're in as much trouble as Deathbringer, if not more. What were you thinking leaving school without permission? Do you know how worried Sunny and Clay have been?" Glory snapped.

"Um," Air said nervously. "How...how worried are they, exactly?" Glory glanced at the dragonet and raised her eyebrows. Air's eyes widened in fear. She was soooooo dead. Joy backed up to the end of the group, hoping to pick up her head soon. Deathbringer nudged her with his wing and gave her a small smile.

"Well, *I'm* happy to see you." he insisted. Joy smiled back at him.

"Now," Glory continued when they had reached her pavilion. "We all know each other, but let's meet anyways. I am Queen Glory and my overenthusiastic bodyguard over there is Deathbringer." The Nightwing gave them a small wave and Winter frowned. There was something oddly familiar about the way Deathbringer was standing. It was very soldier-like, with a straight back and his talons behind him, but yet it was different, less frozen. Where had he seen it before? Winter glanced quickly at his Winglet and found it. It was Joy. She was standing the same exact way as Deathbringer. Hang on....Everyone had known Joy's name and had recognized her, especially the Queen and her bodyguard. Joy had mentioned that she was a Rainwing-Nightwing hybrid, but she never said who her parents were....Could it be? No. Winter was positive. There was no way that any queen, even the queen of the Rainwings, would do something as undignified as to have a dragonet with her bodyguard. Right? Still....it made him wonder what exactly Joy was hiding.

A/N: When did this story get 1k reads? OH MY MOONS!!! WE HAVE OVER 1k READS!!! Thanks you readers!!! I love hearing your comments and how much you love Joy, Air, and all the others! If you ever have a question about anything going on in the story, let me know! If you have a theory, Id be happy to tell you if you're on to something! I have already gotten a speculation about Pear and there is something she's hiding but you have to figure it out before I tell you....

The Dragonet Wingery- A Secret Is Out

Joy was scowling so intensely, the others thought her face would freeze that way. She was not happy about being stuck in the dragonet day-care, no matter how 'safe' it was. The Rainwings at the entrance poked, prodded, and searched each of them before allowing them into dragonet wingery. One Rainwing eyed Kelp nervously.

"Don't worry Mango," Joy assured him. "He's harmless."

"It's true." Seashell agreed with a nod. "Everyone thinks that Seawings are sharp and pointy, but we're really not."

"We're squishy." Kelp offered. Joy smothered a laugh. One part of her head found it confusing. Why was she always laughing when Kelp was around? If any other dragon had said stuff like that, she would've rolled her eyes, yet when Kelp said it, it was funny.

Weird.

There were ten dragonets inside, and all of them jumped up at the sight of the group.

"NEW DRAGONS!!!" one of them yelled, causing all of the dragonets to start shouting and running over to them, admiring their scales.

"Pretty dragon," one of them cooed, looking at Air.

Yea she is, Nightflyer thought. He mentally hit himself. *Stop it.*

"Try this one! He's glittery!" Another cried, changing her scales to match Winter's. Joy walked around the group, critiquing the young dragonets.

"Can you try his scar?" she asked a small dragonet that was trying to

imitate Qibli. He obliged and Qibli recoiled. It was almost like staring into a mirror. One Nightwing dragonet stared quizzically at the group before her eyes landed on a familiar face. Could it be? she wondered. Only one way to find out.

"Nightflyer?" a voice behind him asked. Nightflyer turned to see Firefly, his little sister staring at him. His whole face lit up.

"Firefly!" he yelled, scooping the dragonet up into a hug. She laughed.

"What are you doing here?" she asked. That was Firefly, alright. Always curious, just like their father.

"I, uh...I'm kinda've on a mission." he replied. She looked at him skeptically.

"I assume this is a mission that Mother and Father *don't* know about?" she noted. He nodded before turning to his friends.

"Guys!" he called. They turned to look at him. "This is my little sister Firefly! Firefly, these are my friends." he pointed at each of them as he said their names. "That's Kelp, Seashell, Joy, of course. Moon, Winter, Qibli, and-and Air." he recited. They waved hello to the dragonet as she greeted them.

Moon found herself entering Firefly's mind and froze. It.....it was so....calm. Firefly's mind was like no other Moon had ever seen. It was more peaceful then a quiet waterfall, organized as Starflight's library. Moon could've stayed there in this dragon's head forever. There was something odd in her mind that Moon couldn't quite put her talon on. It was different in some way, but she didn't know how. Unbeknownst to Moon, Qibli was waving his talons in front of her face.

"Moon? Earth. To. Moon. Moon?..... You in there?" he called to her. No reaction. Nothing.

"Maybe we have to hit her." Seashell suggested.

"I'll do it!" Joy volunteered.

"No way, I'll do it." Winter announced.

"Nobody is gonna hit her!" Qibli declared.

"MOON!" Kelp yelled suddenly in her ear. Moon jumped and glanced around.

"Sorry," she apologized. "Her mind was just...so peaceful."

"Who's mind?" Air asked.

"Firefly's." Moon explained.

"Okay then. So, Moon. Are they still watching us, or can we escape now?" Qibli questioned. Moon thought for a moment.

"Yes. We can go. They're not watching." she assured them.

"Great!" Joy announced, rushing over to distract the dragonets.

Winter froze before leaving and glanced at Firefly, who was watching them go.

"What if she talks?" he demanded.

"She won't." Nightflyer assured him. "Right?"

"Right." Firefly agreed. "Be safe."

"We will be." Nightflyer replied. He grinned at his sister before jumping out of the wingery. Air, Moon, Seashell, Qibli, Winter, Kelp, and Joy followed behind him. Joy had just turned away from covering up their escape point when Winter grabbed her and pinned her down.

"Hey!" Kelp yelled. "Let her go!" The others turned to see.

"Winter, what-" Moon started.

"Enough!" Winter announced.

"Let. Go. Of. Me." Joy ordered.

"Not until you explain how everyone here knows you and loves you and *what the hell is going on with the Queen and that bodyguard*!" he demanded.

"And if I don't?" Joy questioned.

"Then I'll kill you." Winter said plainly. Kelp started forward, but Seashell held him back.

"Winter, I *really* wouldn't do that if I were you." Nightflyer warned.

"Oh yea? Why not." Winter questioned.

"Because I'm Queen Glory's daughter, you absolute fucking walnut." Joy shot out.

There was a pause, where no one said of did anything. Most of them stood in shock. Why hadn't she told them? Kelp felt all of the oxygen run out of him. She was a *princess?* Of course she was. How could he have been so stupid as to think that she would- that she could ever.... He wanted to slap himself. He really was an idiot.

Winter loosed his hold on her in shock. Joy was a princess? Joy. Joy? *Joy* was the only heir to a two-tribed throne? And she was that undignified? Winter raised an eyebrow in confusion. Joy took advantage of his shock and shoved him away.

"Why didn't you tell us?" Air blurted out.

"Because I didn't want to befriend dragons that only liked me for who I was. I didn't want anyone to think I was stuck up like some royalty, *cough,* Winter, *cough.* I wanted to make real friends." she admitted. "And, to be honest, I didn't even think of the idea to not tell you."

"Who did?" Qibli asked. Nightflyer silently raised his talon.

"Just thought it would make it easier for her." he said with an anxious smile.

"This poor poor forest." Winter said suddenly. "I thought Queen Glory was bad. But now I pity these dragons when you become

Queen." Joy stared at him.

"You know what?" she announced. "I'm gonna give you a bath. A nice, hot, bath." With that, she grabbed him by the ear and started marching off to the entrance to the volcanic island.

We Found Her, And Gained A New Problem.

A loud scraping sound drew the dragonets out their trances from seeing the Nightwing Island in the flesh. They turned to see Icicle staring at them, and she a wreck. With bloodshot eyes, blood and dirt clouding her pearly scales, and the fact that her scratches from the fight at JMA hadn't healed, she looked down right terrifying. Moon eyed her nervously. Something was seriously wrong with the Icewing.

"Why are you here?" Icicle demanded. "Come to ruin another one of my plans? Haven't you done enough?"

"What happened to you?" Air asked. "You look terrible."

"Could be worse," Icicle countered. "I could look like you." Nightflyer took a step towards her, his face contorted in anger. Air gently held him back, not looking away from Icicle.

"What has Scarlet said?" Winter questioned. "When she found out that-"

"I don't know!" she said gleefully. "I haven't seen her. She can't get to me in my dreams if I don't dream!" she laughed manically. Joy stared at her in horror.

"You haven't SLEPT!" she said in shock. Somehow, Winter was not surprised to hear, even from *Joy,* that a Rainwing was horrified to consider the fact that sleeping was not a daily necessity.

"Course not. I'll sleep after I've killed that Rainwing and have delivered her head on a platter for Scarlet." Icicle explained.

Looking back, the other dragonets thought about what would've happened if they had attempted to hold Joy back, and they all came to the same conclusion; it wasn't possible.

Joy lunged at Icicle at tackled her to the ground. Both dragons yelled out in fury as they wrestled on the ashy rocks of the Nightwing island. Maybe it was wrong, but the others, except for Winter, found it slightly amusing to see Joy repeatedly slamming Icicle's head onto a rock as she choked her at the same time. Eventually, Icicle regained her senses and whipped around, reaching her sharp talons at Joy's throat. A small whistle went through the air and something hit Icicle near her neck. The Icewing gasped and scratched at her neck. Joy jumped off her and turned with a grateful expression. Seashell let out a yelp as a parade of red dragons appeared.

"Icicle of the Icewings," Glory announced. "You are under arrest for murder and multiple attempted murders."

"Whu-what is this!" Icicle cried, clawing at her neck.

"It's just a sleeping dart," Deathbringer explained. "Really not that bad."

"NO! I can't- She'll- I can't go to-" she sputtered. Winter knelt down beside his sister as she panicked. "She'll come for me." Icicle muttered.

"Let her come." Winter insisted. He leaned closer so that no one would hear him. "Tell Scarlet that if she can prove that Hailstorm is alive, I'll kill Glory for her myself."

Later...

It was late at night now, but not everyone was asleep. Winter sat awake, waiting for Scarlet to come. Moon sat nearby, also awake, but the others were sleeping. Joy had chosen to remain with her friends and was currently curled up on the floor, her tail oddly close to Kelp's. In true twin style, Seashell was sprawled out on the floor, her wing protectively covering her brother. Air was sleeping in a small ball, Nightflyer not even a wing's length away from her. Qibli was lying near Moon, his tail twitching in his sleep. Moon inhaled sharply.

"She's here." she noted softly. Winter glanced at his sister, who was

shifting a lot and uttering occasionally. "I need paper. And something to write with." Moon said suddenly. Winter glanced around the healer's hut, but there was no paper to be found.

"I'll fine some." he assured her, walking out of the hut, trying not to wake the others.

"I got it." a voice behind him insisted. It was Joy. "I know where to look. You stay with Moon." she told him. Winter nodded and turned back to the hut.

"She's gone." Moon said with relief. She eyed Winter oddly. "Icicle offered her a deal."

"I only said to-" he began.

"I know." she promised. "I know you wouldn't kill her."

"Do you?" he questioned. "How?"

"Because I think she's the kind of dragon you respect, and that you wouldn't want to start a war between the Icewings and both of her tribes. I think you know what killing her would do to Pyrrhia, and I know you won't agree with me on this, but I think that you consider Joy your friend enough to not want to hurt her by killing her mother. I think that you aren't the kind of dragon that betrays the kind of trust Glory has given you." she explained.

"You seem very sure about certain things related to me." he noted. "That I wouldn't kill Queen Glory, that I care about you and all the others. That I am somehow honorable and brave." Moon nodded.

"I am sure. You are honorable and brave. I am positive about all those things. I've seen it."

"I got it!" Joy cried, running into the room. There were plenty of words that could be used to describe Joy, but *quiet* never quite made it onto the list. The others jolted awake and groaned. Air glanced around in confusion and noted how close Nightflyer had been to her. He blushed slightly and glanced away.

"Got what?" Kelp asked.

"I saw something, behind Scarlet." Moon explained. "It was like a mountain shape, maybe in the Sky Kingdom." Air frowned.

"Can I see the paper?" she asked. Joy handed it to her and she began to draw. A few minutes later, she held up the page. "Did it look like this?" she asked. Moon nodded.

"Exactly like that." she agreed. Air's eyes widened.

"If that's where Scarlet is, then that's where we have to go." Winter declared.

"That's where you think Scarlet is?" Air said in a soft scared voice.

"Yes." Moon agreed. The paper dropped from Air's talon. Nightflyer looked at her curiously.

"Where is that place anyway?" Qibli asked. In a quiet voice that was dripping in fear, Air replied.

"It's right near where my family lives. Where my mother and brother are."

"I Won't Tell Mom If You Don't"

It had been one day since the group of dragonets had fled from the rainforest in secret, heading for the Kingdom of the Sky. They had stopped to rest near a river and Kelp couldn't help but notice that Joy was more quiet than usual.

"You okay?" he asked. She looked up at him and sighed.

"Yea. I'm fine." she assured him, smiling. Kelp frowned. She was far from fine, but then again, it was easy to see why. They'd left the rainforest before the sun had even come up. She hadn't had a chance to say goodbye to her parents, and Joy obviously missed her brother. Who wouldn't? As annoying as she was, Kelp couldn't imagine going on an adventure like this while leaving Seashell behind. Before he could respond, there was a loud splash from the river and multiple roars were heard. Joy and Kelp glanced at each other before rushing over to see what had happened.

"SQUID!" a voice yelled. A familiar voice. Kelp's eyes widened and he and Seashell dove to the back of the group.

"We're not here." Kelp announced. Joy frowned at him before turning to see a Seawing pinning Winter to the ground, and another, older, annoyed-looking Seawing coming up next to him.

"What is it with dragons and sitting on Winter?" Air wondered out loud. The older Seawing glanced at her. She shrugged. "It's like the third time it's happened in less than a week." she explained.

"Who are you?" Qibli asked.

"We're the Talons of Peace." the older Seawing replied. "I'm Riptide and that idiot is Squid. Who are you?" Suddenly, the twins reaction made sense in their heads and the group couldn't help but quickly glance back to the rock they were hiding behind.

"We're from JMA," Moon offered. "I'm Moon, and that's Qibli, Air, Joy, Nightflyer, and the one being sat on is Winter. And...." she trailed off, glancing at the rock. Riptide's eyes narrowed.

"Who are you hiding?" he demanded. Sheepishly, Seashell and Kelp came into view. Riptide's whole expression changed. His face went from demanding, to confused, to shocked, to a face that clearly read the word crap. "What are you doing here?" he hissed at the Seawing twins. "you're supposed to be at school."

"And you're supposed to be at home." Seashell countered. "So I guess you could say we're even." Riptide ran a talon over his face and sighed.

"I won't tell mom if you don't." he offered. Kelp nodded frantically.

"Deal." Seashell agreed.

"Do I even want to know what you're doing?"

"We're going on a mission to find a missing Icewing that happens to be Winter's brother. We think he's in the Sky Kingdom with ex-Queen Scarlet." Kelp explained. Riptide stared at the for a minute.

"Somehow," he began. "I don't think that the dragonets of destiny would approve of eight four-year old dragonets doing this."

"Well, they don't exactly know..." Nightflyer added. Riptide threw up his hands.

"Fine." he exclaimed. "Go on your mission. Just...Can I give you guys a Skywing to go with you or..." he asked.

"That might be useful." Air agreed. "I think I know where I'm going, but it would be helpful to have a more experienced dragon lead the way." Riptide nodded in agreement.

"Squid," he said. "Go find Pyrite and Avalanche, or, better yet, find someone capable that can." The other Seawing grumbled and flew off on his order.

"Am I missing something here?" Winter demanded. "Who exactly are

you?"

"He's our dad." Kelp answered. Winter stared at them, an odd expression on his face.

"He's your father." he repeated. They nodded. "A member of the Talons of Peace." Another nod. Winter looked away, then back at them. "So, you're telling me, that *Tsunami,* a dragonet of destiny, and princess, that absolutely *despises* the Talons of Peace, got together with someone that not only betrayed his tribe, but also is a member of a group she hates?" he clarified.

"Yep." Seashell admitted. .

"Why?" Winter asked in disbelief.

"It, uh....kinda've started out as a miscommunication. " Riptide offered. "And then.....it was spontaneous and mainly revolved around the insult 'squid brain'...."

"Ah," Winter replied sarcastically. "That makes perfect sense."

Gone.

The group, and Pyrite, landed in a clearing.

"Is this it?" Air asked. Moon nodded.

"Yes," she said in agreement. "This is what I saw."

"Hey guys!" Joy called. "Check this out!" They turned to see a destroyed shelter.

"Somebody wasn't happy," Qibli noted as they searched through the remains. Pyrite let out a gasp and held up an orange scale.

"It's Scarlet's!" she cried. The others looked at her skeptically. "I'd recognize her color anywhere," Pyrite added, staring fondly at the scale. The others glanced at each other and Kelp spun a talon around his ear mouthing the word cuckoo.

"What do we do now?" Seashell asked. "Since Scarlet's not here anyways."

"This was a stupid plan." Winter declared. "Hailstorm is most likely dead, and Scarlet could be anywhere in the world right now. There's nothing left for us to do."

"Hey, don't talk like that. We're going to find him." Qibli assured him.

"How?" Winter demanded.

"We could go search up in the mountains," Nightflyer suggested.

"Or we could search the rest of the valley." Joy added.

"Or we could split up and do both," Kelp offered.

"I don't think that's a good idea," Moon admitted. "Something still feels off in this place." An argument was brewing. Everyone had different plan. Nightflyer watched them fight with a sigh, and then he frowned, counting the number of dragons that were here. There were eight dragons in the clearing. There were supposed to be *nine*. He spun around, searching the clearing. Nothing.

"Hey guys?" Nightflyer said hesitantly. They didn't hear him. "Hey guys," he repeated, louder. Still, they ignored him, too busy bickering to realize a potential problem, or, in Nightflyer's case, a *very* serious problem. "GUYS!!" he yelled. They stopped and turned to look at him. Nightflyer took one more glance around before turning back to them with wide eyes. "Where's Air?"

Unbeknownst to Air was the panic she had just sent her friends into. She had snuck away as they were arguing.She didn't want to upset them, but she had to be sure of something. Scarlet hadn't been that far away from Air's home. She had to check and make sure that her mother and Squelch were okay. Worried as she was, she couldn't help but smile at the sight of her home. The river, it's muddy banks, the tall grass where Squelch would hide in to scare her. The four-roomed cave they lived in. Air walked into the cave cautiously.

"Mother?" she called. "Squelch?" There was no reply. Air walked into her brother's room, her nerves growing. "Squelch?" There was no one in the room. She ran to the next one. "Mother?" Empty. The next one? Nothing. Air sprinted out of the cave and spun around. "Mother!" she cried. "Squelch!" They were gone. Where could they have gone? Air searched around for any sign, any clue. Something orange on the ground caught her eye.

"Where have you been?!" Joy shouted as Air walked back into the clearing. But after seeing the look on her friend's face, she stopped.

"Air?" Nightflyer asked gently, but she ignored him. With a determined look streaked with fear covering her face, Air marched over and grabbed Pyrite, who let out a yelp.

"Is this Scarlet's?" she demanded, holding up a scale. The Skywing mumbled and stammered in fear. "ANSWER ME!" Air roared. Pyrite looked at the scale and nodded. Air released her and stepped back,

the scale falling from her talons.

"Air, what happened?" Nightflyer asked. She turned towards the group, her face contorted in terror and grief.

"They're gone." she began. "I went home. With Scarlet being so close I wanted to make sure they were alright and when I went there, they were gone, and one of Scarlet's scales was right on the ground. Right in front of my home." her voice wavered slightly as she went on. "We're going to find Scarlet. I don't care what it takes. We're going to find her, and Winter's gonna get his brother back, and she's going to tell me what she did with my family. And then, she's gonna be wishing she never messed with any of us."

"I second that." Winter said with a growl.

"Air, you can't just-" Moon began, but Air cut her off.

"She took my *baby* brother, Moon. She took my *mother*. How would you feel if she had taken your mother?" Air demanded. Moon stopped for a moment and considered this. How would she feel if Secretkeeper was taken? There were barely words to describe that kind of feeling.

"It would feel like the world was ending," Moon said softly.

"Exactly," Air replied, her voice wavering. "And that's why we have to find Scarlet." Tears filled Air's eyes and she turned away from the group, not wanting the to see her cry. The others went to the opposite side of the clearing to discuss their next move, but Nightflyer didn't go with them. Quietly, he walked over and sat beside Air, who was sobbing at this point. He didn't say anything, but he didn't have to. Silently, he wrapped an arm around her and pulled her close, letting her cry into his chest. He didn't make any promises, didn't tell her that it was going to be okay, he just let her cry, but at the same time, he let her know that she wasn't alone.

The Fight

"Bring me Pyrite." Queen Scarlet's words echoed in Moon's head as she, Winter, and Qibli raced back to the others, praying to get there before the mysterious Nightwing did.

"GUYS!" Qibli shouted as they landed. The others jolted awake and jumped to their feet, but before they could ask, a huge Nightwing landed in the clearing. He glanced around at all of them and his eyes narrowed as they landed on Joy. He rushed at her, and Joy's eyes widened. It all happened so fast that there was no time for anyone to be prepared. The Nigtwing's talons clenched into a fist and he swung at her.

"JOY!" Kelp yelled, shoving her out of the way at the last second, throwing himself in the way. Kelp was thrown back and hit a tree with a loud crack. Seashell and Joy screamed, one in fear, the other in rage.

Seashell rushed over and collapsed by her brother as Joy lunged at the Nightwing and breathed fire in his face. The Nightwing let out a roar and stumbled back towards Winter, who in return breathed frost-breath at the Nightwing's face. He roared again and his mouth opened, ready to burn. Air jumped in front of the group and spread her wings, shielding Nightflyer, Moon, Qibli, Winter, and Joy from the flames. Barely able to see, the Nightwing rubbed at his eyes. But instead of seeing a pile of burning dragons, he saw an odd looking Skywing lunging at him. As Air fought with the Nightwing, Winter rushed over and tackled Pyrite to the ground. She yelped.

The Nightwing punched at Air, causing her to spin around, leaving her back exposed. He scratched at her back and Air screamed as talons dug into her wings and her back. She collapsed to the ground and he pursued her, intent on finishing this fight. But he never got the chance. Nightflyer leapt onto his back and dug at the Nightwing's eyes, forcing him to stumble back, away from Air. The Nightwing yelled and clawed at Nightflyer as they spun around. He

pulled the dragonet off of him and tossed him to the ground before taking off to the sky. Moon couldn't help but feel slightly satisfied as she watched him wobble and fly crookedly into the distance.

Joy immediately ran over and knelt by Kelp. Seashell was crying as he lay there unconscious. Nightflyer picked himself up and bolted over to Air, who was curled up in pain on the ground. He examined the cut along her back and wings. There was a long, bleeding scratch running diagonally from the top of one wing to the bottom of the other. It but didn't look too deep, which hopefully meant that her wing most likely wasn't permanently damaged, but Nightflyer wasn't sure.

"Are you alright?" he asked. She glanced up at him, trying to hide the pain in her eyes. She noted the long gash on one side of his face. It ran from his temple to the corner of his jaw.

"Nightflyer," she whispered. "You're bleeding."

"That doesn't matter," he insisted, brushing it off. Suddenly, there were screams from Winter and Qibli. The others glanced over. Winter held Pyrite's necklace in his talon and Pyrite.....wasn't Pyrite anymore. Instead, they were staring at an Icewing. Winter stared in shock.

"Hailstorm?" he whispered in disbelief.

A/N: Dun dun duuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuu. I know this was short, sorry! Heads up, On the 9th I am leaving for a camp so I won't be able to update for 2 weeks :'(I will be back right before Book 10, though and I will try to update on the 24th. It might be late though, cause I'm staying up til midnight to get Book 10 on my kindle ASAP.....Oh well. I will try to update again before I leave though!

Meanwhile....

Joy leaned against a tree and sighed. They had just arrived in Possibility a few hours ago, and Joy seriously could use some good news, or better yet, a laugh. The whole group could use a laugh in her opinion. Winter was standing at one side of the garden outside the doctor's, drilling Icewing mantras into Hailstorm's head. Seashell was inside, talking with the doctor about Kelp. Air had gotten her scratch stitched up, although she was under strict orders not to fly for at least a week. The hybrid had laid down in the grass and had fallen asleep. Joy couldn't blame her, stitches sounded painful and she had gotten so many. Nightflyer sat protectively next to Air, his tail entwined with hers. Joy couldn't help but smile. Who would've thought that one of her best friends would fall in love with her other best friend. At the moment, things seemed almost uneventful in Possibility, but that was far from the truth at JMA.

Jade Mountain Academy....

Rainkeeper and Turtle hid behind the school's gong, watching. The two had become friends over the last few days, bonded by their worry for the dragonets that had run away. Although, worry was an understatement for Rainkeeper. He was slightly panicking. Joy was out there, in some random place, completely unprotected. What if she happened to stumble into Pineapple? Joy was strong, but Rainkeeper could only imagine how much more powerful Pineapple had gotten over the years. His cousin haunted his nightmares, always killing Joy and occasionally his mother. Mother....How was she taking this? Not very well, Rainkeeper guessed, considering that Glory's only heir and daughter was running straight at Queen Scarlet. Rainkeeper didn't even want to think about what Scarlet would do to his sister should she find out who Joy was. He shuddered at the very thought and snapped back into reality. A moment later, Rainkeeper wished that he had never left his thoughts. Ever.Queen Scarlet was threatening the school, and she had something in her talons. Something that, to Rainkeeper, looked

horrifyingly close to a head.

"TRAITORS!" the scarred dragon yelled. "All of you! Disloyal cowards!" She shook the item she was holding, and Rainkeeper's stomach sank. There was no doubt- it was a head. "I destroy anyone who opposes me! I will have my vengeance and I will get my throne back! This is just one of the dragons I'll kill - and you'll all be next!" She flung the head and them and flew away. A Skywing caught it and turned back to them, holding it up.

Sunny began to scream and Rainkeeper's eyes went wide.

It couldn't be. His normally black scales flashed a bright, neon, acid green and Turtle yelped in shock. Tsunami's roar confirmed it and Rainkeeper suddenly realized that all the oxygen in the world had disappeared. His scales kept flashing that same green color of pure terror until they just stayed that way. White pain seeped in and it felt like the entire world was caving in on him.

The head was Glory's, it was his mother's.

His mother was dead.

No.

Nonononononononoonononononon.

NO! She couldn't be!

Deathbringer wouldn't- his dad would never- realization swept through him. If his mother was dead, then his father would most definitely be too. His father would die before he would let anyone hurt Glory. Tears appeared in his eyes, but he didn't feel them. He didn't hear Ruby ordering her soldiers to go after Scarlet, he didn't see Sunny sobbing and begging Clay to say it wasn't true. He didn't see Turtle walk out to examine the head. Rainkeeper didn't hear anything. He couldn't see, couldn't feel. All he knew was that the world was crashing and burning in front of him, all because of a head that his friend was holding.

It seemed like forever until Turtle was able to get through to his friend.

"Rainkeeper?" he repeated. The prince of the rainforest glanced up at him and the look in his eyes made Turtle want to recoil. "She's not dead." he told him. "It was a fake- animus work." Rainkeeper's eyes widened.

"She's not dead?" he whispered. Turtle nodded. Rainkeeper practically collapsed to the ground with relief, his scales going back to normal. A moment later, they flashed green again. "Joy." Rainkeeper said suddenly. "I have to find Joy."

"And I have to find my sister," Turtle added, glancing outside and wondering where Tsunami had gone.

"Then," Rainkeeper began. "What do you say, we go find them? Together." Turtle turned to his friend.

"Alright," he agreed. "Let's go."

Lost And Found

"I'm leaving." Winter declared.

"What?" Moon said in disbelief.

"Excuse me?" Joy questioned. "You wanna say that again?"

"I. Am. Leaving." Winter repeated.

"Oh, no you're not." Joy retorted. "Look around you. We're in some random city in *Sandwing* territory and *Kelp* is in a *coma.* Why? Because of you! Because we actually *cared* enough about you to go roaming around the world to help YOU find your brother! We've risked our LIVES for you and your stupid, heartless family! And, if given the choice, WE WOULD'VE DONE IT ALL OVER AGAIN! But you're telling me that you're just going to LEAVE because you got what you wanted? And you expect us to just let you go without getting so much as a thank you? I don't fucking think so!"

"Well, too bad!" Winter yelled back at her. Joy let out a scream of rage and lunged at the Icewing. Neither Moon nor Qibli bothered to stop her.

Joy stormed into the doctor's in Possibility, her scales bright red as she fumed. Qibli, equally enraged, followed her. Moon trailed in behind them, her eyes sparkling with soon to fall tears. Inside the building, Air, Seashell, and Nightflyer watched curiously. The only thing missing was a certain know-it-all Icewing prince and his confused brother.

"Where's Winter?" Seashell asked tentatively.

"Gone." Joy replied coldly as she sat down next to the Seawing.

"What do you mean gone?" Air demanded.

"Winter has decided yet again that we mean absolutely nothing to

him and has chosen to take his brother back to the Ice Kingdom. We've given him one week to come back before we leave and inevitably never speak to him again." Qibli explained.

"If he can even fly there," Moon added.

"Why wouldn't he be able to fly?" Nightflyer questioned.

"Let's just say that someone wasn't too happy with his plan." Qibli said, glancing at Joy.

Meanwhile....

Rainkeeper watched curiously as Turtle rubbed a river stone over his shoulders.

"What are you doing?" he asked. Turtle glanced at him.

"Oh, uh. Nothing, just a Seawing thing. Helps heal sore muscles and stuff." he trailed off. Rainkeeper narrowed his eyes.

"No it doesn't."

"How do you know?"

"Because I'm intelligent." Rainkeeper said, his voice dripping with sarcasm just like his mother's. "What is it really?" he continued. Turtle's eyes widened and he glanced at the stone in his talons.

"It's, uh...." Rainkeeper waited expectantly. Finally, Turtle blurted it out. "It's animus-touched, enchanted to heal any kind of injuries." Rainkeeper's jaw dropped.

"Who enchanted it?" he asked in shock. "Anemone?" Turtle's eyes narrowed.

"How did you know Anemone was an animus?" he demanded.

"Turtle. I'm a prince. My mother was one of the five Dragonets of Destiny. My dad's an assassin. I know these things." Rainkeeper deadpanned.

"No," Turtle said suddenly. "It wasn't Anemone." The tone of his voice made it very clear that he didn't want to discuss it anymore. *Could it be?* Rainkeeper wondered.

A few days later.....

Moon and Qibli walked through the streets of Possibility, heading back to the doctor's. They had been watching for Winter from the arch, but now it was time for some one else to have a turn. Joy and Seashell hated watching from the arch. If it were up to them, they'd never leave Kelp's side, and regardless, they rarely did. Air's injury was healing much faster than the doctor had expected, so she would occasionally watch, but she still wasn't allowed to fly, which meant that most of the shifts for watching fell onto Moon, Nightflyer, and Qibli.

As the two walked down the street, Qibli suddenly grabbed Moon's arm and whispered to her.

"I think someone's following us." he admitted. Moon's eyes widened. "Turn here, I know another way back." Qibli insisted. As they turned, Moon listened closely to the minds of the dragons nearby. Sure enough, *Where are they going?* flashed in one dragon's head. His mind stayed close to them.

"You're right." she breathed, her nerves growing.

"Here," Qibli said, turning into an alleyway. It was a dead end. They waited silently until another dragon entered the alleyway. Qibli lunged at the dragon and pinned him to the ground. They wrestled slightly as Moon rushed over. *Wait a second...*she thought.

"Qibli stop!" she cried. Both dragons stopped struggling. Moon stepped closer and frowned. "Rainkeeper?" she asked.

The Possibilities Of Possibility

Six-Claws sighed. He understood that he was on important business in Possibility, but he didn't like the fact that he had to leave Thorn unprotected. Sure, she had guards, but with him away and Qibli at school, she wasn't truly protected if you asked him. School....he wondered how Ostrich was liking it. Qibli better be taking good care of her. With all the crazy explosions going on in the kingdom, he didn't need anything else to worry about. Thorn was trying her best to stop the bombs, but with their only spy being a young dragonet, they weren't getting far. Coal was a useful spy though, young as he was. He'd been trained by his own brothers to sneak in the dark and get what he needed. But his brothers never suspected that he'd use that talent against them. Six-Claws shook his head. He needed to focus. He glanced around the road and froze. Was that.....But it couldn't be. Impossible. Qibli was at school in Jade Mountain. There was absolutely no way that he'd be walking around Possibility with a couple of Nightwings. Six-Claws rolled his eyes. That was ridiculous, even for him. Maybe he should take a nap. But then the Sandwing, whoever it was, turned towards Six-Claws, as if he had recognized him. They made eye contact across the street and Six-Claws's eyes widened. The slightly twitching claws, the darting eyes, that zig-zagged scar on his snout; there was no denying it. That was Qibli. But what was he doing with a couple of Nightwings? Why was he here?

Qibli burst into the doctor's with wide eyes.

"Um, two things." he began. "One, found somebody. Two, slight problem."

"What's the problem?" Air asked nervously.

"Six-Claws is here. I don't know why, but he is, and he spotted me, and he may have recognized me." Qibli replied.

"How big of a problem is that exactly?" Seashell questioned. Qibli

didn't respond, but the look on his face said everything.

"Who did you find? Winter?" Nightflyer asked, going back to what Qibli had mentioned earlier. Moon let out a laugh as she walked in.

"No, not Winter." she promised, stepping aside.

Joy leapt to her feet as another dragon leaned against the door frame.

"Hey Joy," Rainkeeper greeted his sister. Joy let out a cry and barreled into her brother, Air was quick to follow to greet her friend.

"What are you doing here?" Joy demanded.

"Uh....long story that you really don't want to know." he insisted. "Are you all alright?" he asked.

"Except for Kelp, yes." Air said ruefully. Rainkeeper glanced at Kelp's un-moving form before pulling a rock out of a pouch around his neck.

"Here," he suggested, handing Joy the rock. "Stole this off of Turtle. Supposedly it heals all injuries." Joy's eyes widened at the prospect of waking Kelp up again. She really missed having the smiling Seawing around. He made her day brighter for some reason. Seashell jumped and snatched the rock from Joy, rushing over to her brother. A few moments later, Kelp let out a groan and looked around.

"Weren't we in the mountains just a little while ago?" he asked. "Why is it so warm here?"

Later.....

Nightflyer and Air sat up on the arch, watching the sky as the sun began to set.

"This is nowhere near as beautiful as the sunrises in the rainforest," Nightflyer commented.

"What's different about them?" Air asked.

"When the sun rises in the rainforest, the light hits all the trees and everything glows bright with the sky....It's incredible." he replied dreamily. Air smiled at him.

"I guess I'll have to watch one with you someday." she suggested. Nightflyer grinned back.

"I'm sure that can be arranged." he promised. They sat there in silence for a bit longer until a flash of movement caught Nightflyer's eye. "What's that?" he asked, turning. Air glanced over and froze. There were two dragons in the sky, arguing from the looks of it. But upon closer inspection, the saw that something was off about one of the dragons. Air stopped breathing. There was smoke coming off of the dragon's scales. Firescales.

Nightflyer was running so fast that he ended up slamming into the side of the door frame of the doctor's. The others glanced at him, confused.

"What-" Joy began, but Nightflyer didn't let her finish.

"We have to go." he ordered. "Now."

"Why?" Moon asked.

"BECAUSE ALL HELL JUST BROKE LOSE MOON!" he yelled. "Remember how Air's mother is missing? Well, we found her. She's under a spell that is stopping her firescales but I don't know what else it could be doing. And now, Air has run after her mother and the dragon that changed her, so WE HAVE TO GO NOW BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE AND THEY CATCH AIR!"

"How do you know she's under a spell?" Qibli asked.

"Because I watched it happen." Nightflyer snapped. "Now let's go!" The others took off after him as they flew out of the city. As they flew away, Moon heard a shout from behind her. She turned and froze. Winter was flying right at her.

"What's going on?" he asked.

"Are you with us?" she demanded.

"Yes" Winter admitted.

"Really? Why the sudden thawing of your icy heart?" Moon questioned.

"Because I realized that the world is even colder than I am and the only thing that you can do to keep from freezing to death is to have good friends around you to keep you warm." Winter said firmly.

"Then keep up and I'll explain on the way, but don't think that I forgive you for anything, alright?" Moon ordered. Winter nodded.

"Alright."

"Then let's go." Moon replied, speeding ahead to join the others, Winter on her tail. If only any of them knew exactly what kind of danger they were flying straight into.

CAN'T WE JUST HAVE ONE DAY WITHOUT A DISASTER!

Clay stared out at the sky from JMA and sighed. He was worried - no, he was terrified. Air was just a dragonet. What if she got hurt....or worse? And if she didn't come back, what was he supposed to tell Peril? This, not knowing if Air was okay or not...it was hell.

"I'm sure they're fine," a voice behind him said. Clay turned slightly to see Sunny standing behind him. "Qibli said they'd be back as soon as possible."

"But he never specified what condition they'd be coming back in, now did he?" Clay retorted.

"I could dreamvisit them again if you want me too, give you some peace of mind." she offered.

"Could you?" he asked. "That'd be great." Sunny nodded in agreement.

"I don't really know what it is," Clay began. "But, I've a feeling that something really bad is happening, but we just don't know it."

"SUNNY!" Qibli yelled as soon as the Sandwing stepped into his dreams. "HELP!" So, clearly Clay was not going to have peace of mind any time soon.

"What happened?" Sunny asked nervously.

"Everything went to hell." Qibli replied. "We were in Possibility, but then Air saw Peril and we chased after her and she's under a spell and working with Scarlet and then they went back to the Sky Kingdom and Scarlet has retaken her throne, but some dragon she's working with found us and now we.....we're trapped in a cell in the

Sky Kingdom." Sunny stared at him for a moment and eloquently shut her eyes.

"Qibli," she began. "You mean to tell me that I now have to explain to Clay, AND Glory why their dragonets are locked up in Scarlet's clutches?"

".....And Tsunami and Starflight. Plus the fact that we have Winter here too, but yes." Qibli added.

"AW COME ON!!" Sunny yelled. "I JUST WANT TWO DAYS WITHOUT A DISASTER, IS THAT SO MUCH TO ASK!?!? Fine," she went on, calming down. "We'll find a way to help you. Make sure nothing else happens, okay?" Qibli nodded in agreement, and then Sunny was gone.

"So, are they okay?" Clay's voice asked as soon as Sunny set down the dreamvisitor. She looked at him as one thought went through her head. *Damn it Qibli, now somebody's gonna die.*

Qibli awoke soon after and glanced around the cell. It was reasonably sized, but small when you had nine dragonets squashed inside. There was a small window, pointless to even attempt to escape from, but not bad for sleeping near. Winter had claimed that spot, insisting that it was the coldest place in the cell. There was a hard rock ledge and some chains in the room; both were occupied.

Joy, upon being recognized as a rainwing, had been chained up and had a large metal band around her snout, preventing her from saying anything. But, chains and all, Joy still managed to look more sarcastic and enraged that anyone else in the room. Rainkeeper, Kelp, and Air were close seconds for the enraged title though. Kelp was furious because Joy was chained up, and Air was pissed off because Scarlet had her mother and there was still no sign of what had happened to Squelch. Rainkeeper was vowing to give Scarlet a matching venom wound when they got out. Qibli found it ironic that they had locked up Joy when Rainkeeper was the one with the

venom. Seashell and Moon shared the rock ledge, no matter how uncomfortable it was. Joy was curled up on the floor, Rainkeeper and Kelp protectively on either side of her. Qibli could only laugh when he saw how Air and Nightflyer were sleeping because he knew how brutally his friend would die, should Clay ever see them like this. Nightflyer was leaning against the wall, with Air leaning into him. Her head rested on his shoulder and his head was propped up on hers. He had one wing wrapped protectively around the hybrid and their talons and tails were entwined. It didn't look very comfortable, but Joy and Moon both agreed that Air looked a thousand times more peaceful sleeping like that than she had at JMA.

Later in the day, footsteps were heard coming towards their cell. No one had come to see them at all, unless they were delivering the small bits of food and water they were allowed. The dragonets jumped to their feet, wary about this unexpected visitor. It was a Skywing, one clad in treasure from head to foot. They recognized him- he was the one who had found them in the first place. Now he stood in front of their cell and pointed a ring covered finger at Air.

"You," he said coldly. "You're coming with me."

"No she's not. We stick together." Nightflyer said immediately. He wasn't about to let one of them go missing, especially not Air.

"Too bad Nightwing." he spat. "Unless you wanna die, you're gonna let the Skywing come with me." Nightflyer let out a growl and Qibli's tail lashed angrily. Although she couldn't speak, Joy's message was clearly getting across. She was repeatedly swiping her talon across her neck, clearly saying *you will die.* Air took a deep breath and squeezed Nightflyer's talon before walking towards the cell door. The treasure coated Skywing unlocked the door, grabbed Air, and quickly re-locked it before turning and pulling Air down the hallway with him. Nightflyer grabbed the bar of the cell door, watching her go. Air twisted slightly as she walked, staring at him with fear in her beautiful brown eyes.

Taken

A/N: BWHAHAHAHA I love torturing you guys sometimes... But, I am strangely liking that you enjoy the book enough to threaten me if I kill someone off.

As the remaining eight dragonets panicked in their cell, A.K.A., as the remaining seven dragonets attempted to calm Nightflyer down, Air was taken to Scarlet's throne room.

The scarred queen sat regally on her throne, looking more evil than ever. At her side was Peril, her face furrowed into a permanent state of confusion as she stared at Air. On the guest throne sat a small Skywing dragonet. He was humming softly and waved to Air even though they had never met before.

"Air, isn't it?" Scarlet questioned. Air fought to keep her emotions in check. "A hybrid, of my champion and some revolting Mudwing?" the queen went on. Peril grabbed her head with one talon, looking more confused than Air had ever seen her. Air couldn't help it.

"Mother," she whispered, desperate. Peril glanced up and turned to the Scarlet.

"Your Majesty, I don't mean to interrupt, but....Who is she?" she asked tentatively. Air's eyes widened in fear. Scarlet smirked.

"No one for you to worry about," she promised her former champion. She turned back to Air. "Now," Scarlet began. "As you know, I've recently taken back my throne, and it would be so nice to have another strong dragon on my side-"

"I'll NEVER work for you!" Air spat.

"I wouldn't be so quick to make that choice if I were you." Scarlet

continued. She flicked her tail and another dragon came forward with a necklace. "Put this on, and then we'll talk." Air set her jaw.

"That's enchanted, isn't it? Just like the one my mother is wearing right now." Air shot back at her.

"Perhaps you need a bit of persuasion," Scarlet suggested. She flicked her tail again, and two more Skywings came out dragging someone into the room. Someone with brown scales, and blue eyes. Air's heart stopped.

"Squelch?" she whispered in disbelief.

At the sound of footsteps, everyone jumped to their feet back in the cell. The treasure coated dragon was back, but this time, no Air. Nightflyer grabbed at the bars.

"Where is she?" he demanded, his voice dripping with fury. Joy let out a muffled growl.

"You." the dragon said, pointing at Nightflyer. "You are needed. And don't worry, you'll be seeing your precious little taint very soon." With that, he took Nightflyer away, leaving the remaining dragonets terrified for what their friends were going through....and who would be next.

"DON'T LISTEN TO HER AIR!" Squelch yelled as soon as Air caught sight of him. "She's evil! She did something to Mother! She doesn't even know who Dad is anymore!" Air froze in horror. The dragonet just a few feet away was her brother. Her baby brother, held captive, and, judging by the bleeding scratches on him, it hadn't been pleasant.

"So," Scarlet began. "Here's how this is going to work. You put on that necklace and work for me....or this puny little dragonet dies." Tears pricked up in Air's eyes.

"How can you do this?" she demanded. "How can you be so cruel?"

"Don't do it Air!" Squelch cried. "I'm not worth it! Keep your mind your own! You have to stop her, you have to save Mother!" Air shook, but she knew her brother was right. She couldn't do it- not

when she might be their mother's only hope.

"This is taking too long," Scarlet commented. "Let's kick it up a notch." She flicked her tail, and another dragon was shoved into the room.

Nightflyer.

He was thrown to the ground before being grabbed by two fierce Skywings.

"Nightflyer." Air breathed.

"Same deal," Scarlet explained. "But now both of them will die if you refuse." Air glanced at the Queen before focusing on the hostages.

"Air, no." Nightflyer begged, his voice soft and fearful. They begged and begged her, but it wouldn't do any good. She couldn't let Squelch die - she couldn't let *Nightflyer* die. There was only one thing she could do. Tears fell down Air's face as she took the necklace.

"AIR NO!" they yelled. She turned towards them as she put it on.

"I'm sorry." she whispered, dropping the necklace over her head.

Ah, So This Is What Hell Feels Like.

Nightflyer's heart stopped as Air dropped the necklace over her head. She glanced around, momentarily confused.

"Air?" he asked cautiously. The dragon in front of him frowned.

"Who's that?" she asked. "And who are you?" Those three words hit him like a punch to the stomach. He winced and struggled against the dragons holding him. Next to him, Squelch was snapping at his captors attempting to bite them, but the were much bigger than he was.

"Robin," Scarlet's voice rang out. Air turned and bowed before the queen. "Escort the prisoners back to their cell."

"Yes your majesty." Air replied obediently.

Ah, Nightflyer thought. *So this is what hell feels like.*

The others jumped to their feet at the sound of footsteps.

"Air?" Rainkeeper asked in a confused voice. "What are you-" Air banged on the bars of the cell, and they jumped.

"Shut your trap, Nightwing scum." she ordered, ignoring their stares. Even Winter was astonished. The guards shoved Nightflyer and Squelch into the cell, locked the doors, and walked back down the hall, Air following them.

"WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED?" Moon yelled as soon as they were gone. Squelch suddenly burst into tears and the others suddenly realized how young of a dragonet they were actually dealing with.

"Squelch, what happened?" Qibli asked tentatively.

"I don't know,"" he began. "I was at home, and then this scary Skywing was holding a knife to my throat and then Mother was there and was threatening to burn him to cinders but then the scarred dragon came up and said that if Mother went back to working for her, they'd let me live. So she agreed, but they kept me hostage until Mother put on some necklace and then next thing I knew, they were threatening to kill me if Air didn't do the same thing!"

"Air put on a necklace to save Squelch and me. Now she has no memory of any of us, or herself. She believes that she is a Skywing named Robin, completely loyal to Scarlet. There's probably more, but that's all I know." Nightflyer added. There was a muffled sound as Joy let out a sting of curses.

"Somebody's going to die." Kelp promised. They all nodded in agreement.

A few days later...

The last couple of days had been uneventful to the dragonets in their cell. But things were quite different outside. Ruby was imprisoned as well, and Scarlet's throne was protected by the shapeshifting Chameleon, her firescales champion Peril, and her new weapon - a young, odd looking dragon named Robin. Scarlet had a funny way of siding with dragons that were different.

Down the hall, there was a small yelp and a thunk as someone hit the floor. Rainkeeper glanced down the hall curiously, and spotted multiple dragons coming towards the cell.

"Guys," he hissed. "Wake up." The other got up and prepared themselves as the figures grew closer, their faces hidden in the shadows. One looked oddly familiar to Rainkeeper, even in the darkness. He took a step forward as the group reached the cell door. Rainkeeper blinked in surprise. "Dad?" he asked in disbelief.

Deathbringer grinned in the dark. The others lunged at the cell door, staring at the dragons behind him.

"DAD!" Squelch yelled happily.

"Squelch?" Clay said in confusion. "What are you-"

"Mother!" Seashell cried and Kelp dove to the front of the group.

"Mom?" Nightflyer said in shock.

"In the flesh," Fatespeaker replied, stepping forward to unlock the door. Rainkeeper, Seashell, Kelp, Squelch, and Nightflyer lunged at their parents and Qibli, Moon, and Winter stepped gratefully out of the cave. There was a muffled yell of anger.

"Oh," Rainkeeper said, remembering. "We gotta help Joy."

"What did they do to-" Deathbringer asked as he was pulled into the cell. His voice died in his throat at the sight of Joy chained up, the scowl on her face identical to the one Glory wore frequently. Fatespeaker passed him the keys and they quickly unlocked the princess. Joy let out a roar when she was freed.

"I AM GONNA MURDER THAT SKYWING!" she declared, storming out of the cave.

"Part two of this mission," Squelch informed them. "Save Air and my Mother!" The small army marched down towards the throne room, Joy at its head.

"Joy, you can't kill Scarlet. You don't even have any weapons!" Deathbringer protested.

"Oh, I don't?" Joy asked, holding out three chakrams.

"When did you-" he began, reaching at the pouch he held his weapons in. Joy winked.

"I have my ways." she explained. Deathbringer grinned as she put on a burst of speed. Glory would kill him, but he was proud of how sly and deadly Joy had become.

If she didn't have to be a queen, he thought. *She'd make one heck of an assassin.*

A Fight To Remember

A/N: Hooray I've started doing dedications!

Scarlet watched, slightly amused, as ten dragons stormed into her throne room. On either side of her, Air frowned and Peril began to squirm, the thing in her head flapping like crazy. It was going like a ceiling fan on high when she spotted a Mudwing in the group.

"Let them go." someone ordered. Scarlet grinned.

"I don't have to. There's nothing forcing them to stay here." she offered.

"Let them go, or you'll be sorry." She smirked.

"Will I now. And why is that?" Joy stepped to the front of the group and Scarlet stiffened slightly.

"See, the ironic thing," Joy began. "Is that I'm not even the one with the venom."

The group lashed out and the guards around the room jumped forward to fight them. Deathbringer and Joy lunged out and sliced with their talons while their chakrams sliced through both the air and the guards. Rainkeeper spat out with venom, Qibli behind him attacking with his venomous tail. Fatespeaker and Clay focused on protecting, keeping the Skywings away from their students as much as possible. Three of them weren't even there. Winter, Moon, and Seashell had gone off to find Ruby and free her.

"Peril," Scarlet asked, leaning over to her champion.

"Yes Your Majesty?" Peril said obediantly.

"See that Mudwing out there? Not the big one, but the small one

with the strange eyes?" Scarlet questioned. "Kill him for me."

"Of course, Your Majesty." Peril agreed, walking towards the fight.

Nightflyer let out a oof as he was tackled to the ground. He turned to face his attacker and froze.

It was Air.

Air? Nightflyer thought. *Seriously universe!?!?!? Can't I catch a break?* Air growled and lunged at him. They wrestled on the ground. Fighting was apparently a lot more difficult when you were trying to avoid hurting the dragon that was trying to kill you.

"Air!" he yelled as she swung at his neck, him holding her back enough so she couldn't reach. "It's me!"

"I don't know you!" she screamed at him. "AND MY NAME ISN'T AIR!" *That's it,* he realized as Air pinned him to the ground. The necklace thumped against Air's chest as they fought, completely unprotected. Nightflyer reached out as she pinned him- and tore off the necklace.

Qibli's eyes widened as he caught sight of Peril walking into the fight. She could kill them all right now, but for some reason she didn't.

Scarlet's given her a specific target, he realized, searching the crowd of fighting. *But who? Clay?* No. The Mudwing might be a threat, but no matter what spell she was under, Peril would never hurt Clay. Scarlet wouldn't risk the hold she had on the firescales dragon. *Who could it be?*.....Suddenly it clicked in Qibli's head.

"Clay!" he yelled out. The Mudwing's head swung towards him. "Peril's gonna kill Squelch!" Horror was written over everyone's face.

Sure enough, when Peril reached the small dragonet, she shot out and wrapped a talon around his neck, lifting him off the ground as she choked him.

"Mother," Squelch begged. "Please." Suddenly, another dragon

slammed into Peril, causing her to lose her grip on Squelch. She whipped around to see Air lunging at her, reaching for the necklace. Every dragon in the ground jumped back as Air yanked at the necklace. Peril struggled against the dragonet's hold, but it was no use after Clay helped pin her down. As soon as the necklace was off, Peril's angered face faded in confusion before contorting into horror.

"Oh my moons," Peril said softly. "What have I done?" With sighs of relief, Clay and Air released her and fell back. The group sighed and glanced at one another.

"Well, that was entertaining." Scarlet declared. "I'll have to recruit you all for my new arena."

"Too bad you won't have an arena to recruit anyone for." a new voice said as the doors were slammed open. Ruby stepped into the room, her face full of fierce determination. "Queen Scarlet of the Skywings, I hereby challenge you for throne and kingdom." she announced.

That night....

In a small clearing near the Sky Palace, fifteen dragons slept around a dying fire. After watching the royal challenge, the group decided to head back to Jade Mountain, where most of them were supposed to be. They had chosen to rest for the night and they needed it. But not everyone was sleeping.

Nightflyer, in true Nightwing fashion, was wide awake. He glanced around the circle of dragons surrounding the weak fire.

Peril and her smoking scales were slightly away from the rest of the ground, mainly for safety. Squelch was curled up near her, one of Clay's wings spread over him like a blanket. Air was nearby too, but she had rolled away from Clay's other wing in her sleep.

Next to them was Tsunami, one of her dragonets under each of her wings. One of Kelp's talon was outstretched, just centimeters from Joy's talon, that was also stretched towards him.

Deathbringer had his tail protectively entwined with his daughter, and the assassin slept in a way that looked so much like he was awake, it was scary. Rainkeeper was on his dad's other side and next to him lay Qibli, Moon, and Winter. Right in a row. Nightflyer lay next to them, observing. On his other side was a tree and on the other side of the tree was Fatespeaker. Nightflyer didn't know why, but he didn't really like sleeping all curled up next to his mom. But she didn't like it much either, so it worked out.

Unbeknownst to Nightflyer, he wasn't the only one awake. Deathbringer hardly ever slept and certainly not when they were sleeping in some strange place. The assassin glanced around and frowned at the closeness of Joy and Kelp's talons. Carefully, he untwined his tail and pulled Joy's talon away from Kelp's. With a small smirk on his face, he shut his eyes and attempted to sleep. There was a small sound, and he reopened his eyes. Deathbringer glanced at Joy's talon and scowled.

Had her talon seriously gotten closer to Kelp's.

He sighed and closed his eyes again.

There was a slight gasp, and Air shot awake, panting.

"Bad dream?" a calm voice asked. She turned to see Nightflyer watching her.

"Maybe," she admitted. He grinned slightly. In the forest, something snapped. "What was that?" Air asked, her voice raising in a panicked way.

"Calm down," Nightflyer insisted, but Air looked far from calm. He stood up and went and sat by the tree. "Come here,"

"Why?" Air questioned, but she did as he asked, settling next to him like they had sat in the cell.

"Sleep," he suggested. "Nothing is going to get to you when I'm here. Not even bad dreams."

"Thank you," she said in a relieved voice.

Oh, Deathbringer thought as they both fell asleep. *He's good.*

Back To JMA, And This Time, YOU'RE GONNA STAY THERE!...Til The End Of The Year

Clay scowled at the sky as they flew back to JMA. Peril caught the look on his face and bit back a laugh. Sure, she wasn't that happy to wake up and find her daughter sleeping in some Nightwing's arms, but at least she didn't go crazy and start making death threats (unlike some dragons.)

Nightflyer flew through the sky with a smile on his face. Sure, Clay was going to murder him the next time he fell asleep, but it was so worth it. Next to him, Air did a flip of delight as she flew, cherishing the sweet mountain oxygen.

This was it, Joy thought to herself. They were really going back. Sure, Mother was going to kill her in an instant, but she thought the adventure had been worth it. Kelp smiled shyly at her and Joy grinned back at him. They had been at school for less than a month, and Joy could only imagine what would happen during the rest of the year.

As it turns out, the rest of the school year was pretty uneventful compared to what had happened in the beginning of the year.

Air spent most of the time in the art cave, carving out their adventures. But she was never alone in the room. Rainkeeper was always painting, and Nightflyer had taken to watching Air as she sculpted. He found it to be an adorable sight, because whenever Air was deep in concentration, her tongue would poke out of the corner of her mouth. She had no idea she did this, which made Nightflyer like it even better.

Kelp spent a lot more time with Joy than he expected to. They would joke and pull pranks and just....laugh. For hours on end. It was almost strange to feel so happy, but Kelp was growing to like the feeling, even though he knew he shouldn't be getting close to Joy.

Now, as night fell, the school year was coming to a close. Tomorrow everyone's parents or guardians would come and pick them up, but Rainkeeper had one last thing he wanted to do first. As soon as everyone was asleep, he snuck out of his sleeping cave, a bag slung over his shoulder. Finally, he reached his destination. The school gong was at the entrance, and usually was the first thing everyone saw as they walked in. But Rainkeeper wasn't looking at the gong, he was looking at the wall above it. Most dragons would look and see rock, but Rainkeeper saw a canvas. He reached into the bag, took out some paint, grabbed a brush, and began to paint.

The next day...

Most of Jade Mountain Academy was staring at it, but then again, who wouldn't? The Dragonets of Destiny were astonished. Someone had painted a mural in the night. It was amazing.

In big bright letters read the words *Welcome To Jade Mountain Academy*, and surrounding it was... the school.

There were small pictures, like snapshots of events that had gone on over the past year. And it was so detailed that the students were picking themselves out in the pictures. There were pictures of Joy and others, dancing in the music cave. Ostrich, Qibli, and Umber playing instruments. Air and Rainkeeper in the art cave, Clay yelling at chickens in the Prey center, Seawings swimming in the underground lake, Rainwings sleeping on top of the mountain for suntime, Sora, Moon, and Starflight discussing scrolls in the library, Turtle and Rainkeeper peeking out from behind the gong, Winter holding up a soaking wet scavenger, a irritated expression on this face. Everything was there.

"Who did this?" Sunny said in awe. Joy blinked in surprise at a small mark in the corner of the mural, easily missed. In small white print were two letters. *RK*. They were signed like a signature. There

was only one dragon in the school that could sign their name like that.

Later....

On a ledge on the side of JMA sat Air, Seashell, Kelp, Joy, Nightflyer, Moon, Winter, and Qibli. They watched as other students met with their families and left for home. Most of them were just waiting it out. Air, Seashell, Kelp, Joy, Nightflyer, and Qibli were each leaving with one of the Dragonets of Destiny, so they had to wait for the entire school to leave first. Winter could leave anytime he wanted, if he had anywhere to go. The Ice Kingdom was out of the question, but he had an idea of where he could hide out until it was time for school to start again.

"Mother!" Moon yelled in delight, jumping up and soaring off the ledge to greet Secretkeeper. Joy grinned as a familiar Rainwing landed at the school's entrance.

"I'll be back," she called, rushing off to greet her mother.

Nightflyer watched on until something slammed into his head like a brick.

A vision.

As Nightflyer watched, two small dragonets ran through a forest, their faces contorted with terror. One of the dragonets, a smokey looking Skywing, glanced behind him in fear. He couldn't have been more than three. The other dragonet, a Nightwing, had tears running down her face as they ran. She looked barely more than a few months old, far too young to be this scared. They ran and ran, until someone thumped down in front of them. An old looking Icewing grinned evilly at them, more Icewings landing around him.

"Well, if it isn't my lucky day." the Icewing hissed. The older dragonet turned to the younger one.

"Run." he told her, before lunging at the Icewing. The little dragonet did as she was told and ran away from the Icewings. But she was running and crying, oblivious to her surroundings. She didn't see the small

opening in the ground until it was too late. She fell down the hole, knocked her head on a rock, and rolled to the bottom of a cave, unconscious.

Well, Nightflyer thought nervously. *That can't be good.*

The Fiesta

Many of the tribes in Pyrrhia were known for certain things. Sandwings, for instance, were known for being the biggest tribe and the biggest kingdom, but also for their musical ability and moon festivals. Rainwings were known for their venom and their hidden village, but also for their parties. Fiestas, they were called. Some rainwings were hesitant when Glory became queen because they didn't want to see their beloved parties taken away, but Glory had grown to love them. The fiestas were random and spontaneous, but amazing. The whole tribe would come and dance, musicians would play all night if they were asked. Between the fiestas and Glory and Deathbringer's singing, it was no wonder Joy grew up loving music.

Very few Nightwings were ever invited to the fiestas, and no member outside of those two tribes had ever seen one, until now. Glory thought it would be good to break the walls keeping the tribes separate, so she announced that there would be a fiesta, not just for the Rainwings, but for any dragon that wished to come. It was for this reason that Clay and Air flew to the rainforest. And Air specifically "forgot" to tell Nightflyer she was coming.

Joy lunged at her friend the moment her feet touched the ground.

"You're here!" Joy yelled. Air grinned. It was nice to see her friend again.

"Hi Air," Rainkeeper offered, greeting her more gently than Joy had.

"Come on, you have to say hi to Moon!" Joy continued, dragging her friend into the forest. Air shot her dad an apologetic look as she ran off.

"Air!" Moon cried as she hugged the hybrid.

"Hey Moon!" Air greeted her. Suddenly, Joy pulled them both into the trees.

"Nightflyer is over there," Joy said deviously. "You should go say hi." Air shoved her friend with a smirk before walking back into the village. Sure enough, there he was. Nightflyer was standing over a small table, his back to her. Firefly spotted her first and grinned, pretending to not have seen her. Air creeped up right behind him and tried to keep a straight face.

"Hi Nightflyer." she said calmly.

As someone spoke, Nightflyer's heart jumped a mile. There was only one dragon in Pyrrhia with a voice as pretty as that. He whipped around and his face lit up.

"Air!" he yelled, barreling into her. On the edge of the forest, Joy and Moon burst out laughing.

"Shut up!" Air warned them.

"What are you doing here?" Nightflyer asked in a delighted voice, a goofy smile spreading across his face like pink in a rainwing's scales.

"I came for the fiesta," she explained. "I didn't tell you cause I wanted it to be a surprise."

"Well, it definitely worked."

That Night...

It was fiesta time, and there wasn't a single unhappy dragon in the room. Rainkeeper grinned proudly, seeing has he had persuaded Pear to come with him. She eyed the room nervously at first, but then relaxed. Every time someone knew arrived though, she would jump. *Strange,* Rainkeeper thought with a shrug. Pear was a mystery, but he liked trying to figure her out. He glanced around the room, spotting some of the friends Joy had made during their last year at school. Moon was talking with that Sandwing, Qibli? Was that his name?, Seashell was talking with Kinkajou about something while Joy sat at one of the tables with Air, Nightflyer,

and Kelp. The music started up and dragons took to the floor, Air and Nightflyer among them.

"Hey Rainy?" Pear asked with a smile. Whatever it was, Rainkeeper knew he would agree. Her smile had a strange hold on him. "Wanna dance?"

"You bet." he replied, taking one of her talons in his. As they spun around on the floor, Rainkeeper noticed something odd. Joy wasn't dancing. Joy never missed a dance, even the slow ones that she didn't have a partner for. He spotted his sister where he had originally seen her, sitting at a table with Kelp. They were laughing and Joy wasn't even tapping her talons to the music like she always did. That was weird.

The night went on with dance after dance. Air swayed along to nearly all of them, content to stay in Nightflyer's arms, no matter what song was playing. He made stupid jokes and she laughed for no reason. There was this warm safe feeling with him and she just wanted to keep it forever. As the last dance of the night ended, Nightflyer pulled her aside and whispered into her ear. Air grinned and agreed, sending him off with a smile on his face.

"What did he ask you?" Joy questioned.

"He wants to meet me on one of the rainwing platforms later," Air explained. "Apparently he has something to show me."

"I already want all the details and it hasn't even happened yet." Moon exclaimed.

"Tell all tomorrow, okay?"Joy begged. Air nodded in agreement.

"Air," Clay called. "Time to say goodnight."

"Coming!" Air insisted, smiling at the very thought of what Nightflyer could be planning.

A Sunrise To Remember

A/N: Kinkajou: Sunrise, Sunset, Sunrise Sunset. Swiftly flow the yeeeeears!!! Me: SHUT UP KINKAJOU!

Shortly before dawn hit the forest, Air sneaked out of the small hut she and Clay were staying in and glanced out at the sleeping forest. Even with her poor night vision, she could see a dark dragon touch down on a platform and look around. With a grin, Air flew up to the platform and landed softly next to Nightflyer.

"You came." he commented, a smile forming on his face.

"Of course I came." she added, smiling at him. "What exactly are we doing?" A smirk played at the corners of his mouth as he sat down on the platform.

"Waiting," he explained, motioning for her to sit down. She obliged, leaning up against him in their now familiar way. One of the things that made Nightflyer feel so...right, was that they fit perfectly together. It was as if she was carved to sit right under his wing forever.

"You know," Nightflyer began as dawn started to approach. "I think I have finally figured you out. Or, at least, some of you."

"Is that so?" Air questioned. "And what exactly have you figured out?"

"Your name is Air." he began. "You are by far the most beautiful dragon in the world, inside and out. You are an incredible artist, and very protective of those closest to you. You have a big heart and are willing to let dragons in, but also fear they will break you. You are confident and smart, but the big thing about you, Air, is what you fear. You're so afraid that you will protect everyone so much, that no one will be left to protect you. You know that your

family will do anything for you, but you also know that there will come a time in your life when you have to grow up and leave for family behind. You're afraid of falling and having no one to catch you. But you shouldn't be. And you wanna know why?" Air leaned closer to him, amazed at how much he had figured out in such a short time.

"Why?" she breathed.

"Because, you have me. I don't really know what the future holds between us, whether we'll stay close or grow apart, but no matter what happens. If you fall, I'll catch you. I decided that the very first day we met and I'll still believe it when I'm a hundred and seventeen."

There was a pause as his words sank in.

"Why?" Air asked suddenly. "Why me? You are an amazing dragon, Nightflyer, and you could have any dragon in the world on their knees and yet, you choose to stay around some sheltered, ugly looking hybrid with overprotective parents? It doesn't make sense."

"Honestly, it's your eyes. That's how it started. Then it grew with your personality and your smile and your warmth and just....how it feels when you sit next to me and the rush I get whenever you walk into the room. The list goes on. We could stay here for eternity and I would never finish. You've stolen my heart, Air, and I don't ever want it back." They stared at each other, lost in the silver and brown of each other's eyes, until a light broke the stare. The sun was rising.

The light hit the dew-covered trees just right and everything began to sparkle and glow. Air let out a gasp, and Nightflyer grinned. There truly was nothing like this in the whole world. The colors of the sky spread to the forest, illuminating everything in its light. Air wanted to save this sight forever, but any picture would dull in comparison. It was breath-taking.

After the sun had completely risen, Air glanced over at Nightflyer.

"We should be heading back," he said with a sigh. "Everyone will be

waking up soon."

"You know," Air began. "I think I've figured something out about you too."

"Oh?" Nightflyer said in surprise. "And what's that?"

"That you," she continued. "Are every bit as perfect as that sunrise just was."

Strange Occurrences Of The Rainforest

It had been days since the fiesta, and Air and the others had gone home. Joy walked alone in the forest, on her way back from the Nightwing village. As she neared her home, a dragon appeared in the trees above her.

"Hello," he said slyly.

"Hi," Joy greeted him, walking on. The rainwing followed her.

"You're Princess Joy, aren't you?"

"Yes." Joy replied, her voice suggesting that she didn't want to have this conversation.

"I'm Macaw." he said proudly.

"Good for you." Joy said sharply, still walking.

Macaw, she noted, was around her age, possibly slightly older. He was ugly if you asked her, but some other dragon might find him handsome. But the thing that irked her the most was the way he was eyeing her. It made a dragon want to squirm and check themselves for bugs.

"You know," Macaw began, the look on his face seriously unnerving. "You're pretty hot. For a hybrid I mean." Joy stopped dead in her tracks and whirled around to glare at him.

"*What* did you just say to me?" she hissed, her teeth bared. He

looked her up and down and sighed.

"My father says that we're destined to be together. Shame, really. I was hoping you'd have better hearing." he explained. Joy let out a growl and grabbed Macaw by the neck.

"When I'm through with you," she began. "You'll be wishing you had more limbs."

Elsewhere in the forest, Rainkeeper was climbing a familiar tree, wondering if he had finally managed to beat Pear here. No such luck. The rainwing was sitting elegantly on a branch, tossing berries at Tree-Bud. But there was something wrong. Rainkeeper frowned at her. She had fresh scratches, as usual, but this time she also was sporting a black eye.

"What happened to you?" he asked. Pear's eyes widened.

"Oh, you know. Clumsy me," she stammered. "Fell out of a tree again."

"Trees don't give you black eyes." Rainkeeper retorted, his eyes narrowing in suspicion. "What really happened?"

"Guess I caught a branch just right then," Pear suggested nervously. Rainkeeper walked over to her and sat down on the branch.

"You know you can tell me anything, right?" he questioned. Pear nodded.

"I know. It's nothing Rainy, really. Don't worry." she assured him. His eyes widened as a possibility went through his head. He brushed his talons against her eye gently.

"Did- did someone..." he asked, shocked at the very chance. "Did someone hit you?" Pear recoiled.

"No! Of course not! Absolutely not! No one would- Rainkeeper that's- I-" she stammered. That only confirmed it. Rainkeeper's talons clenched in anger.

"Who?" he demanded. "Pear, who did this to you?" Thoughts

slammed in his head and he wanted to smack himself. "That's what's been happening the whole time! Hasn't it? You never fell out of a tree, did you?" Pear stared at the ground.

"Please don't be mad," she begged. "You're all I've got Rainy."

"I'm not mad at you!" he insisted. "I'm- I'm mad at who did this! I'm mad at myself for letting this happen and being to stupid to see it sooner! I just....Tell me who did it Pear, please. I just want to help you."

"NO!" she yelled. "I can't tell! Cause then you'll make a scene and he'll get angry and it'll only get worse! I'm not supposed to be friends with anyone, let alone you."

"Oh Pear," Rainkeeper said in shock. "I can't just let you go back."

"Well too bad." she insisted. "I've got no other choice. And going back is the safest option. If no one else gets involved, then no one else gets hurt.....You won't get hurt."

SMACK! Nightflyer paused at the sound. From further into the forest, he could hear humming. This humming was followed by another sound. SMACK! There it was again. As a curious dragon, Nightflyer went towards the sound. He found Joy, humming to herself with a smile on her face, hitting something as it swung around a tree. It looked like she was playing tether-ball. But the ball seemed to be moving.

"What are you doing?" he asked. Joy glanced up from her game and grinned.

"Playing Tether-dragon." she offered. "Wanna join?"

"What the heck is tether-dragon?" he questioned.

"It's basically tether-ball," she explained, smacking the 'ball' again. "Except that instead of playing with a ball, you tie a dragon up with their tail, string them on a rope, and use them as the ball." Nightflyer was momentarily horrified.

"And what poor dragon are you using as the ball?" he asked

nervously.

"A little bitch named Macaw. He says that I am destined to be with him." she replied.

"Oh, big mistake dude." Nightflyer agreed, talking to the 'ball'.

"Wanna play?" Joy asked again. Nightflyer shrugged.

"Sure, why not?"

Another Year At JMA

A/N: Skipping ahead cause I don't know what to write.....

The summer flew by and before anyone knew it, it was time to go back to school.

For returning students, they looked forward to seeing their friends again, but for new students, they feared being away for so long. Among the new students was Auklet, Squelch, Firefly, and a Sandwing named Coal. Coal had been found out as a spy and had run to Queen Thorn for safety. Thorn had sent him to school while she had dragons searching the Scorpion Den for Coal's brothers. But Coal already knew they wouldn't be found. His brothers had made a deal with another gang, one that Thorn was very familiar with. The thought of his brothers getting the infamous skull tattoos on their scales made him want to shiver. There was no going back to the Scorpion den now. Not when his brothers had someone that powerful on their side.

A large group of friends met up on a ledge near the entrance. Air, Seashell, Kelp, Joy, Nightflyer, Moon, Qibli, and Winter were excited to see each other again. Or...most of them were. Winter wasn't exactly a 'jump for joy' kind of dragon. The friends also greeted Squelch and Firefly, remembering the dragonets from their adventures last year.

The friends were just hoping for this year to pass much more smoothly than last year. They figured that wasn't too much to ask.

Well, turns out, it was.

Squelch stepped nervously into his sleeping cave. He was excited to be at school with Air and his dad, but he didn't like the fact that his

mother was all alone. She had promised to visit lots, but still. Squelch didn't want her to get lonely. There was only one other dragon in the cave, a Sandwing about Squelch's age. He had short scars running down his neck and healing scratches along his sides that were bound to leave more scars. Squelch frowned, wondering what had happened to the dragonet.

"Hi," he said, announcing himself. The Sandwing glanced up from the welcome scroll and smiled.

"Hello." he said briefly, his voice tense.

"I'm Squelch." he offered, holding out a talon.

"Coal." the Sandwing replied, shaking his talon.

"What winglet are you in?" Squelch asked, hoping it was the same as his.

"Citrine, I think." Coal said nervously, frowning at the welcome scroll.

"That's the same as me!" Squelch said with a grin. Coal looked relieved.

"Good," he commented.

Okay, Squelch thought to himself. *Maybe he just doesn't talk much. But this is a start, right?*

"Hey," Nightflyer asked as he walked Firefly down the hall. "What winglet are you in?"

"The Citrine Winglet," Firefly recited. "I'm with Air's brother and the youngest Seawing princess, and a few others that I don't know anything about yet."

"That outa be fun," Nightflyer said with a smile. "I assume I don't

have to tell you where the library is?" Firefly let out a snort.

"Are you kidding? I've already given Father a list of all the scrolls I want to read."

"And how many scrolls are on it?"

"At least half the library."

"Well, don't be afraid to make some friends too," he suggested, knowing that Firefly didn't have any back home.

"Of course I'll make friends Nightflyer. I have hundreds of them. They just happen to live on paper." she said distantly, dreaming about the scrolls already. Nightflyer shook his head. She really was her father's daughter.

"Alright," Sunny said anxiously. "Here we go again."

"Did everyone remember to pray for no more explosions, attempted murders, school-wide chaos, disasters, or secret plots with our old enemies?" Tsunami questioned.

"Shoot, I forgot about attempted murders." Clay admitted. Starflight facetaloned.

"She was joking Clay." he explained.

"No I wasn't." Tsunami retorted.

"I didn't think you were, and yes, we remembered." Sunny offered.

"Who knows," Starflight began. "Maybe this year will be calm, and our biggest problem will be six dragonets all wanting to check out the same scroll."

Oh, how wrong they were.

Dance Lessons

[image]

https://youtu.be/VFlZXlfda6Y

Joy was walking down the hall with Kelp when a thought suddenly popped into her head.

"Hey Kelp," she began.

"Yes?" Kelp asked.

"Remember how last year I promised to teach you to dance?" Kelp let out a snort.

"Who could forget?"

"Do you still want to learn?" Kelp froze. Was this a trick question? If he said no, would she be disappointed, or relieved? But why would she bring it up if she didn't want him to say yes? And if he did say yes, what would happen? He loved the idea of a chance to get closer to Joy, but what if she didn't see a dance lesson the way he did? What if she just wanted to teach him as a favor to a friend? Three Moons, girls were confusing.

"Yes," Kelp admitted. "If you're still willing to teach me." Joy smiled.

"Great,"

"When is our first lesson?" Kelp asked. Joy thought for a moment.

"How about tonight?" she suggested. "I'll come and get you."

"Okay." Kelp agreed, not really sure what to expect.

Apparently, when Joy said 'tonight', she didn't mean when the sun went down, she meant late at night. When they weren't allowed to leave their sleeping caves. Kelp was lying awake in his cave, listening to Nightflyer's heavy breathing, when there was a tap on his shoulder. He jumped up, and looked around, for there was no one else in he room. Then, with a smile on her face, Joy melted into view.

"Come on," she whispered, glancing briefly over at Nightflyer to make sure he was sleeping.

It wasn't until they were walking down the hall that Kelp thought to wonder why the heck he was following Joy down a dark hallway for dance lessons.

They ended up in a deserted cave, away from the rest of the school. Even though they could both see in the dark, Joy lit a torch to brighten the room anyway.

"It'll be more difficult to learn without music, so just think of a song I guess." she suggested.

"Okay," Kelp agreed.

"I'm going to start you off with something easy. Just three steps, okay?" Joy explained. Kelp nodded. "This is for when you're dancing with someone else," Joy held up one of her talons. "Take my hand," she instructed. Kelp did as he was told. Joy then placed her other talon on his shoulder. "Now, with your other hand, hold on to my waist."

"Wait what?" Kelp said in shock. Her waist? What? Joy bit back a laugh.

"Come on," she urged. "You can do it. No big deal." Kelp looked at her, mildly mortified, and placed his talon on her waist. "There. Now for the steps." Joy continued, smiling at him. "Take one step back." Kelp did, and at the same time, Joy stepped forward. "Now to the right." Another step. "Now forwards." Another step. "See? That wasn't so bad. You're basically dancing in the shape of a box."

"Huh." Kelp said in surprise. This was easy.

"Now let's do it again." Joy commanded. This time, as they stepped, she spoke. A step back. "One." A step to the side. "Two." A step forwards. "Three. That's all you have to remember."

"I didn't realize it would be this simple." he admitted. Joy smiled again.

"Now we add something. Remember the song that's playing in your head?" Kelp nodded. "As you step, sway to the music."

For hours that night and for many days afterwards, they would dance. Slowly, the dance itself got more complex. Soon there were spins and twirls, their feet moving faster. Sure, it wasn't all perfect. There were plenty of times that Kelp stepped on her toes or his own, fell to the floor and dragged Joy down with him. But he got better. As to why, Kelp had no idea. But he was pretty sure it was because of his teacher.

A few weeks later he was learning a new step. In this step, they would start the way they always did, their talons entwined, her talon on his shoulder, his talon on her waist. But then Joy's hand would slide across and lightly grab his arm. Then Kelp would slide back and spin her back into him. It took a few tries before he got a hang of it. But finally, he got it.

"Now put it all together," Joy told him. They took their positions and danced. Their feet moved faster, their bodies swayed to invisible music, faster and faster until finally Kelp spun her close and they stopped, panting, their arms tangled together, their faces surprisingly close to each other. They stared, un-moving at each other for a while, each of them fighting the feelings they were *not* supposed to have.

No, the logical part of Kelp's brain yelled. *You aren't allowed to have this. Let her go before she gets too close. Don't let anyone get hurt. But why?* the rest of him screamed. *Why can't I just have this?* Joy's brain was on a similar track.

Don't. You can't be with him, they'll never accept it. Find someone else.

Don't let him too close. Don't let him get hurt. So, they did nothing. After a moment more, Kelp let go and they faced each other. Joy cleared her throat, snapping back to reality.

"That was....great." she insisted. Kelp nodded, unable to speak. Joy was finding it difficult to breathe. "How about we end it for tonight okay?" she suggested. "Practice more tomorrow?"

"Yes, tomorrow. Of course." Kelp agreed. They walked silently back to their sleeping caves, thoughts swimming in their heads. *What if I hadn't stopped?* Kelp wondered to himself as the day arrived. What *if I had closed the distance between us? What could've happened if I had?* But that didn't matter, because he hadn't done it. He hadn't kissed her. And now he was left wondering if he had missed his only chance.

Moments

They were in the art cave again. Nightflyer watched adoringly as Air concentrated on a small sculpture, working at its mouth with a small tool. Nightflyer grinned. He could tell that she was deep in thought, her tongue creeping out of the corner of her mouth. Her eyebrows furrowed and he bit back a laugh. Not very well though.

"What are you laughing at?" she asked, not looking up.

"You." he replied.

"Oh, I'm funny now, am I?" she questioned, glancing up.

"No, it's just funny to see your tongue stick out as you work." he retorted. Air looked shocked.

"I don't do that!" she exclaimed. Nightflyer let out a snort.

"Yes you do." Rainkeeper agreed, not even looking away from his painting.

"And you've known about this the whole time?!" Air demanded. Nightflyer nodded, silently laughing. "Oh, you're gonna get it." she declared, grabbing a brush and dipping it in bright pink paint.

"Air," Nightflyer said nervously. "What are you doing?"

"Turning you into a rainwing," she replied, dabbing a bit of the paint on his snout. Nightflyer let out a yelp and bolted for the door. "Get back here!" Air yelled, chasing after him.

Rainkeeper chuckled at them before returning to his painting. It was almost finished, and he was quite happy with how realistic it

had turned out. It showed a tall tree in the rainforest, but a brightly colored, smiling rainwing was visible through the leaves, preparing to throw an apple. A mischievous looking sloth was next to her, as if he was approving of this plan they were concocting.

Nightflyer screamed playfully as he ran through the school, Air chasing behind him and laughing, holding the paintbrush like a spear she was prepared to throw. They were running so fast that they failed to look down, causing them to trip and crash to the floor after stepping on some unfortunate dragonet. The dragonet in question didn't seem to mind. Nightflyer and Air glanced over to see Squelch, Firefly, Auklet, and a Sandwing they didn't know rolling on the floor with laughter. A scroll was lying abandoned on the ground next to them. Nightflyer grinned. But his face fell as Air smiled evilly and raised the paintbrush. With a shriek they were back to running.

"I'm gonna get you!" Air promised, making Nightflyer yell louder. He crashed into Clay, shoving him into the wall as he kept running.

"What the-" Clay began. But before he could react, Air came running by, the paintbrush smearing a streak of pink on his brown scales. "Air!" he yelled back, but she was laughing too hard to hear him.

Finally, Nightflyer tripped again and tumbled to the floor. Air shrieked with laughter and tripped on him, landing on top of the Nightwing. She blushed, making her maroon scales even redder. They stayed there laughing for a minute before Air smeared what paint was left on the brush all over him. There wasn't much left and Air got the feeling that they'd be following a pink trail back to the art cave. The thought only made her laugh harder.

They were at it again. It was deep into the night, and Kelp and Joy were in the middle of yet another dance lesson. But lately, there hadn't been as much teaching involved. Now it was just about dancing until their feet gave out. Today was no exception.

They danced and danced, their feet a blur, spinning and swaying, tapping and twirling.

Kelp's heart was pounding with the music in his head. The logical

voice in his head grew weaker with every step. He didn't care how much he wasn't supposed to have this. He didn't care how much it would hurt later on because he knew it'd be worth it.

Joy felt similar. She didn't care how anyone would react, she didn't care what they thought. She knew it would cause problems later, but that didn't matter. She just wanted to save the way he made her feel forever. He just wanted to have one good thing in his life that he deserved.

Around and around they went in this circle, fighting wars with themselves. But Kelp was tired of circles.

That's why, when he spun her close, and she turned her head, and their lips were just inches apart, he closed the distance. It wasn't exactly planned, but he did it anyways.

He kissed her.

And she didn't pull away.

A few moments of eternity later, they broke apart, both of them panting slightly. But that wasn't from the energy of dancing; it was from the buzz they both still felt on their lips. They stared at each other, neither knowing what to say, or what they wanted to hear. More moments passed as the feeling wore off, leaving their hearts heavy with emotions they were forbidden to have. But neither of them cared. That's probably why, a second later, Joy kissed him. She grabbed Kelp by the neck and kissed him. His eyes closed, savoring everything. Everything- from the fruit she smelled of, to the way his arms fit around her waist, to how her arms fit around his neck, to the strange sweetness he could taste as they kissed. No matter what happened between them in the future, they both knew that this one moment would stay with them forever. And one moment was all they needed to throw away everything the world thought was right.

Seashell frowned as she walked down the hallway. Moon had suggested that the group should find some activity that they could all do together, but it was hard to find something that everyone liked.

Qibli and Joy liked music, Air liked art.

Seashell liked to gossip, Moon liked to read.

Kelp and Nightflyer liked to play games, and Winter just downright hated everything.

Finding a common interest was a painful task. Seashell sighed and then stopped dead in her tracks. There, on one of the message boards, was the answer to her problem.

"Perfect." she decided, running down the hall to find her friends.

Like Hunting? Want to get out of JMA for a little while? the sign read. *Sign up for our first ever hunting trip! Plenty of spots still available! Talk to Clay if you have any questions.*

It's A Hunting Trip. What Could Go Wrong? ....A Lot, Clay. A Lot.

A few days later, a group of dragonets had gathered at the top of Jade Mountain with Clay.

"Okay," the Mudwing began. "Since there are a lot of you, I'll be splitting you into groups of three. Feel free to hunt where ever you like as long as you can still see the mountain. There's a big lake nearby if you're looking for fish, trees for birds...anything you need. If you have any problems, come find me. A whistle will blow in a few hours, signaling that it's time to head back." Clay continued to talk as Seashell's attention drifted. Her eyes landed on her brother, who was barely a talon's length away from Joy, the loud mountain air blowing through his scales. Seashell's eyes narrowed. As a gossip-loving dragon, she noticed every detail about potential couples that she liked. One thing she noticed always was how far apart the two dragons would stand from each other. Air and Nightflyer, for example, were always three talon lengths apart. Joy and Kelp were usually four. But now that distance had been cut in half. What had happened to make them closer?

"Here are your groupings. You will stay in them, no exceptions. Air, Nightflyer, and Rainkeeper." Clay announced. Air grinned, clearly pleased with the group. "Moonwatcher, Qibli, and Winter." Moon looked momentarily afraid, but Winter and Qibli looked happy enough. "Seashell, Kelp, and Joy." Joy shot Kelp a smile and he grinned back, his smile nowhere near as shy as it used to be. *Maybe I can figure it out on the trip*, Seashell thought to herself. "Changbai, Ostrich,.." Clay continued. Eventually, all the groups had been announced. "And you're free to go!" Clay announced. There were shouts of excitement as the dragonets took to the sky, everyone heading off in their own direction.

The sky was bright blue, perfect for hunting. Joy's group headed towards the lake. Air and Moon's groups hovered near the forest, deciding where to go. Kelp and Seashell dove for the water, hoping to catch some fish. Joy flew around the area, noting the few, small islands that were scattered in the lake. She landed on one and something strange occurred. The sky began to cloud, as if a storm was rolling in. Joy frowned at the sky, but then moved on, searching the island of something interesting to eat. She stayed close to the shore, occasionally looking out to try and see Kelp or Seashell, but they were invisible in the water. There was a splash and Joy suddenly found herself covered in water. Kelp laughed at her shocked face.

"Oh, you're gonna get it!" Joy declared, diving into the water and throwing seaweed at him. He yelped as the slimy weed stuck to his scales. Now it was Joy's turn to laugh.

The sky grew darker as a few hours passed. Kelp and Joy were laying in the sand, laughing, as the first clap of thunder sounded. Seashell jumped up from her spot on a rock as it rumbled through the sky. As rain began to fall, a loud whistle rang through the air.

"We have to go back!" Kelp cried as wind began to blow fast. The storm had built up quietly, but now it was unleashed like a hyper dog on the area.

"It's too strong to fly through!" Joy shouted back. "We have to wait it out!" The group dove under the trees of the small island for shelter as lightning began to crack.

"We have to figure out a way back." Seashell proclaimed.

"Now, why would you do that when you're about to have so much fun here?" a slithery voice hissed. Joy whipped around and her blood froze. A pair of fiery eyes glared at her as a dragon stepped into view, right next to Kelp.

A/N: Prepare yourself for much cliffhanger torture. There's this one, and I can't wait to see your reaction to the next one. *evil laughter* :)

Pineapple, Lightning Strikes, Fear, Panic, Death Threats, No Big Deal...

"We have to head back!" Air called out. Rainkeeper shook his head.

"I'm not going until I know Joy is on her way back!" he retorted. Nightflyer was torn. He wanted to go back, where it was safe and warm, but he didn't want to leave his friends out here. And, either way, he wasn't going anywhere without Air. He was debating when pain sliced into his head and he gasped, his wings giving out at the sudden vision that slammed into his head.

"Nightflyer!" Air yelled. She and Rainkeeper dove after the Nightwing as he fell. Rainkeeper flew under him and caught him unsteadily, their scales wet with rain. Nightflyer's eyes were unfocused, yet he looked terrified. He spoke one word in a voice that was not his own.

"Pineapple."

"What?" Air said in confusion, helping Rainkeeper to hold him. Rainkeeper's scales flashed green with fear.

"Where?" he demanded. "Nightflyer. When? And where?" Nightflyer gasped again, as if he hadn't been breathing this whole time. He

stared at Rainkeeper in terror.

"Joy." he said hoarsely. "Now." Without another word, Rainkeeper took off towards the lake, to the last spot he had seen his sister go.

Red flooded Joy's scales, even covering the small bits of green fear she felt.

"Pineapple." she hissed at the fiery eyed dragon. Pineapple smirked at her. Seashell exchanged a look with her brother, her eyes clearly reading a message. Kelp understood, and nodded slightly. With that, Seashell took off suddenly into the sky. Pineapple smirked again.

"Ah, yes. Go fly off to warn your pathetic excuses for teachers that I'm here." she said with a snort. *Maybe,* she thought in her head. *If she cooperates, you'll be back in time to save this ridiculous Seawing.*
"It's about time we met, cousin. It's a pity my original plan didn't work out, or I never would've had to meet you." she said haughtily, her voice slimy like a snake's.

"Oh yes. It's quite a shame you didn't manage to murder even more innocent dragonets before they got to hatch." Joy said sarcastically.

"On the contrary," Pineapple began innocently. "If you had died first, none of those dragonets would've. I would've left, and ten families could've had a happier life, yours included. I would never have been caught. It would've just been known as 'a tragic accident' that every daughter Glory attempted to hatch would've died. It would be no shock, just look at the Seawings. But, no. You lived instead, and ten innocents dragonets, including your own brother, died because of it."

"Don't you dare talk about my brother." a new voice growled.

Air and Nightflyer took off after Rainkeeper, but a flash of lightning and a scream distracted them. Air turned to see a figure falling out of the sky. She flew towards it, hoping to catch the dragon before they hit the ground.

"Air!" Nightflyer yelled after her, but he followed her. Air was just fast enough to soften the fall for the figure she had seen. They

crash-landed on a small island near the one Rainkeeper was flying to. Nightflyer landed in the sand next to them and rushed over. They both gasped as they recognized who had just been struck by lightning. It was Seashell.

Moon, Winter, and Qibli were flying back to JMA when a vision crashed into Moon's head as well. Winter and Qibli quickly caught her from flying and winced as she screamed. This truly was the worst vision she had ever seen.

"Moon? What is it? What's happening?" Qibli asked anxiously. As soon as she regained control of her wings, Moon took off towards a small island. Winter and Qibli followed her, their nerves growing by the second.

"Oh no. Oh moons. Oh no." Nightflyer sputtered. "Is she alive?" Air shakily pressed her talon to Seashell's neck.

"Yes," she said in a relieved voice. They sat there in relief until a thought occurred to her. "What about Kelp and Joy?" Air said in a sudden panic. "Seashell wouldn't fly off alone for no reason! Something must've happened to one of them!"

"Probably to Joy," Nightflyer reasoned. "Seashell would never leave if her brother was hurt."

"We have to go check." Air realized.

"But we can't leave Seashell here alone." Nightflyer countered.

"Okay, then I'll go check the island and find out what happened. You stay here with Seashell." Air suggested. As much as he didn't want her to go off alone, he could see that there was no point in arguing with her about this.

"Alright." Nightflyer reluctantly agreed. "Be careful." With that, Air took to the sky.

Pineapple and Joy whirled around to see Rainkeeper glaring at Pineapple. Joy raised her eyebrows in surprise. She had never seen him look so angry.

"Well, isn't this a pleasant family reunion." Pineapple smirked. "Good to see you again Rainkeeper."

"Don't talk to me like that" Rainkeeper snapped. "Like everything is fine. I know what you're planning here."

"Oh really?" she countered. "And, guess what? Your precious daddy isn't here to stop me this time."

"He doesn't have to be." Rainkeeper assured her. "If you want Joy, you'll have to go through me first." Pineapple grinned.

"Oh, Rainkeeper. You really overthink everything. I'm not going to attack her." she insisted. "She's going to come willing into my claws."

"And why would I ever do that?" Joy demanded.

"Because if you don't," Pineapple replied. She paused and grabbed Kelp, holding a talon threateningly at his throat. "He dies."

At that moment, Moon, Winter, Qibli, and Air burst into the area and froze.

"No." Moon whispered. "We're too late." Every emotion in the world built up inside of Joy, but somehow she managed to keep her cool. Everyone else remained frozen. She eyes Kelp, reading the fear in his eyes. But she also saw how much he didn't want her to do this. How much he thought that he wasn't worth her life. An invisible mask covered her emotions, letting her play things out. She snorted.

"So? He's just some Seawing. I could care less if he lives or dies." Joy lied, praying that Pineapple would believe her and let him go, hoping to find a more useful hostage. But apparently her prayers didn't get answered.

"Is that so?" Pineapple questioned. "That's not what I heard. But, if you insist."

With a smirk on her face and her eyes never leaving Joy's, Pineapple slit Kelp's throat.

screams

A/N: You know, I am starting to understand why authors kill off characters. There's something fun about being called a horrific monster. And I like torturing my readers from time to time. To quote the wise words of Blackbeard. "If I don't kill someone every now and then, they forget who I am." Also-

Readers: JUST TELL US WITH HAPPENS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Okay! :)

Joy screamed as Pineapple released Kelp and he fell to the ground. But then Joy and Qibli were there, pressing their talons against Kelp's throat. They couldn't stop the bleeding, but they could slow it.

"Help him!" Qibli yelled. "Don't just stand there! Winter! Moon! Air! Somebody! Get something!"

"No. Nonononononononononononono." Joy whispered. She grabbed one of Kelp's talons as she pressed her other talon to his throat. "Not like this." she whispered. Kelp opened his mouth, as if he was trying to say something, but only blood came out. "Don't talk." she urged him. "Kelp. Please. Please, just stay with me. *Please.*" she begged.

"Stone." he choked out. "Seashell. The stone."

"What?" Winter said in confusion. They had gathered around him, Air helping to add pressure onto the wound. Suddenly, it clicked. Air jumped back and Joy screamed again.

"Air!" she cried at her friend. Moon jumped in to keep the pressure.

"The healing stone we got from Turtle!" Air yelled, taking off into the sky.

Pineapple grinned at their feeble attempts. The Seawing was going to die. She was sure of it. Just like she was sure that her job had just gotten so much easier. Joy was on the ground, bent over Kelp. She wasn't paying attention, and her back was completely unguarded. It was the perfect time to strike.

Nightflyer glanced up as Air crashed down next to him. His eyes widened as he took everything in. There were tears in her eyes and blood on her scales. She was shaking, clearly in a panic.

"Air?" he breathed. She didn't respond, grabbing at the pouch around Seashell's neck and digging through it, searching. *Please,* Air prayed. *Please let it be in here.* "Air?" Nightflyer said, this time more urgently. "What happened? Air, who's blood is that?" With shaking talons, she pulled a river stone out of the pouch and jumped to her feet. Nightflyer grabbed her arm before she could fly off. "Air, Who's blood is that!?" he demanded, his voice panicked.

"There's no time for this!" she cried, breaking out of his grip and flying away.

Pineapple stepped towards Joy, the hybrid not even noticing. She couldn't breathe, the air becoming solid around her. Pineapple took another step and someone grabbed her arm.

"Don't even think about it." Rainkeeper warned, stepping between her and Joy.

"What? You're going to stop me?" She demanded.

"No. I don't have to." he retorted. "If you want to kill her, you simply have to kill me first. And we both know you don't have it in you to do that."

"I wouldn't be so sure if I were you." Pineapple cautioned, although she did look slightly hesitant. They glared at each other as Air

crashed down and bolted over to Kelp.

Quick as a flash, Pineapple threw Rainkeeper away and grabbed Joy by the neck, pulling her away from Kelp. Joy let out a scream, but relaxed slightly as Air began to press the healing stone against the wound. Her relief faded into anger and, with newly found rage, Joy launched herself at Pineapple.

"You've been training," Pineapple commented as they both fell to the ground. "But, then again, so have I."

"And who in their right mind would train *you?*" Joy demanded, as they wrestled on the ground. Pineapple smirked as she was pinned to the ground.

"You'd be surprised what some prisoners are willing to do for freedom, and the Sand Kingdom is full of prisoners. It was perfectly easy to find one that hated Glory enough to train me. Her only request was simple enough for me to agree to." With that, she flipped Joy neatly over her head and spun to her feet. Joy caught herself and rolled over before regaining control.

"Enough!" Rainkeeper yelled, coming between them. He grabbed Pineapple by the throat and pinned her against a tree. She didn't resist. In fact, she looked slightly impressed.

"Learn that move from your father, did you? I wouldn't be surprised. You copy everything that pathetic dragon does, no matter how stupid. Well, hate to break it to you, but no matter how much you're like him, he's still not going to want some artist for a son. You're a lame excuse for a prince and a son, just like you always have been. The only dragon that's ever liked you for who you are is *me.*" She declared.

"Don't listen to her Rainkeeper!" Air cried. His grip tightened against Pineapple's throat.

"That's a lie, but, then again, you've never spoken a true word in your life." he hissed. "So, here's what's going to happen. You are going to leave here, and you are *never* going to come back. You will leave my sister *and* the rest of my family alone for good."

"And why would I do that?"

"Everybody has a weakness, Pineapple." he explained. "I just happen to be very familiar with yours."

Alive And.....MOSTLY Well.

The Dragonets Of Destiny stood at the entrance way of JMA, watching the storm nervously.

"They're probably fine." Starflight guessed, his voice unsure.

"Why is it, that whenever something happens, it's always somehow related to the same group of dragonets?" Tsunami demanded.

"Because nearly everyone in the group is our kids, Tsunami. They were kinda've born to have trouble follow them around." Clay explained.

"They are probably are just waiting out the storm somewhere. They'll come back as soon as it's over." Sunny said, her voice certain.

"Fine. But if they're dead, I'm blaming you." Tsunami promised. Sunny whacked her on the arm.

"Don't talk like that." she exclaimed.

"Just being honest, because I am completely positive that something horrible has happened and we just don't know about it yet." Tsunami retorted.

Meanwhile....

It had been a few hours since Pineapple had fled, Rainkeeper threatening to expose her weakness if she didn't. The group had decided to stay on the island until the storm stopped and they could get help, seeing as Kelp and Seashell were in no condition to fly. Kelp's wound had been lowered to a slight scratch, thanks to the

healing stone. The stone had also nearly healed the burns Seashell had gotten from being struck by lightning. Kelp was sprawled out of the ground, fast asleep. Joy was curled up next to him, out cold. Seashell, and the others were also asleep, but Rainkeeper was nowhere near tired. Apparently, near-death experiences were traumatizing for everyone involved. Instead of sleeping, Rainkeeper stared at the sky, half convinced that Pineapple would dive out of the sky at any moment.

Pineapple was an odd dragon. She was the exact opposite of any rainwing that had ever lived. She hated everything, absolutely *everything*. In the entire world. Except for one thing. That was her weakness. The one thing she couldn't despise with all her heart- if she even had one. She had murdered ten innocent dragonets before they were even born. Dragons that had a heart didn't do that. Rainkeeper had no idea why this one thing was her weakness, but it was, and it had worked to keep her away from Joy and from hurting anyone else. He was so lost in thought for a moment that he didn't notice that the sky had turned blue again.

Then Rainkeeper snapped back into reality. The sky was blue, the storm was gone, they could fly back! He quickly shook the others awake.

"Guys, the storm's gone. We can go back!" he said a relieved voice. Air paled at the thought.

"We were here all night," she realized. "Oh, Dad is going to be soooooooo mad."

"I think he'll forgive you when he finds out we got attacked by Joy's vengeful cousin and Kelp and Seashell almost died." Nightflyer assured her.

"You're welcome," Kelp said with a grin. "My near death experience has saved you all." For someone who was on death's doorstep and matter of hours ago, Kelp seemed surprisingly happy. But, then again, Joy was practically glued to his side in a way. That could make anybody happy.

"Okay, here's the plan." Rainkeeper began. "Air, Nightflyer, Winter,

and I will go and get help while everyone else stays here. Agreed?" They nodded. "Then let's go." With that, Rainkeeper, Air, Nightflyer, and Qibli took to the sky.

As soon as they landed at JMA, they split up and began looking for the teachers. Air turned down a hallway and spotted Clay at the other end.

"Dad!" she called, rushing down the hall. Clay whirled around.

"Air." he said in relief. Then he took in the dried blood and dirt on her scales. "Air?" he repeated, this time more concerned."Who's blood is that?" Ignoring the question, she barreled into him and hugged him.

"It's fine, really." she said in a rush. "Don't worry about the blood. It's Kelp's, but he's fine...sorta. We got attacked by Joy's cousin Pineapple and she slit Kelp's throat but HE'S OKAY! Then Seashell got struck by lightning and Joy fought with her cousin and...just, a lot happened and we need help." Clay stared at her in shock. "But everyone else is fine!" she added.

"I gotta find Tsunami," he said absentmindedly.

Hours later...

The group had safely returned to JMA and had finally washed the blood off their scales. Kelp was to remain in the infirmary over night, but everyone else was free to go back to their sleeping caves. They explained what had happened to the teachers and Sunny had reluctantly contacted Glory about the incident. Now it was late at night, but Joy found the very idea of sleep impossible. She ended up wandering the halls until she landed in the infirmary, next to Kelp, who was sleeping. Or so she thought.

"No no no. We've got this all wrong." Kelp announced, opening his eyes. "*You're* supposed to be the sleeping beauty, and *I'm* supposed to be the prince." Joy laughed.

"I think it works this way too." she insisted, smiling at him.

"Well, I'd like to think I'm beautiful enough to be a sleeping princess

too, but somehow I think you'd make a better one." he agreed, grinning at her. "But, now I'm curious. Why are you here?" Joy shrugged.

"Couldn't sleep."

"Well, maybe you'll have better luck here." he suggested, sliding over.

"Are you inviting me into your bed, Kelp?" she questioned, grinning.

"No, I am inviting you to stay the night with me on a very uncomfortable reed mat." he retorted, smiling at her.

"Alright," she agreed, laying down next to him. They talked for a little while longer, neither one of them minding that they fell asleep in each other's arms.

IT BETTER NOT BE ANOTHER CODE 23!

The next morning...

Clay walked calmly down the hallway. It was still early, but some of the students were up and about already. Clay was on his way to the infirmary, figuring he'd check on Kelp before the day really began. He froze in the doorway. There, calmly sleeping on one of the reed mats, was Kelp. But he wasn't alone. The Seawing had his arm slung over another figure. This someone was curled up alongside Kelp, also fast asleep. It took Clay a moment before he recognized the dragonet. It was Joy.

Air was hoping for a nice, uneventful day when she woke up. She was *not* hoping, instead, to watch as her dad came bolting down the hallway yelling at the top of his lungs.

"TSUNAMI!!!" Clay yelled, most likely waking up the entire school. Nearly all of the returning students had the same thought. *Great, what cave blew up this time?* Sunny ducked out of a cave.

"What code is it?" she demanded as Clay ran by. "IT BETTER NOT BE ANOTHER CODE 23!"

"It's a-" Clay stopped. "WE DON'T HAVE A CODE FOR THIS! WHERE'S TSUNAMI!?!"

A few minutes later, Clay, Tsunami, Starflight, and Sunny were standing in the doorway of the infirmary, staring at Joy and Kelp. Tsunami looked positively murderous as the other teachers whispered frantically.

"What do we do?" Starflight hissed.

"I don't know, I just found them like this!" Clay whispered loudly.

"Guys, you don't think..."Sunny trailed off, eyeing the sleeping dragonets.

"Absolutely not!" Tsunami exclaimed. "Sunny, how can you even think that?"

"I'm just trying to examine all the angles here." she retorted.

"Well don't examine *those* angles!" Tsunami retorted, her voice growing louder.

"They're talking about us." Kelp whispered into Joy's ear.

"I know," she breathed back.

"Maybe we should get up and set some things straight," he suggested.

"True, but then I won't be this close to you." she noted.

"And that's a problem?" he questioned.

"Oh yes. You really are a very comfortable dragon to be near. And here I thought you were lying that one time you said Seawings were squishy." Kelp attempted not to laugh, but ended up smothering the sound by pressing his snout into Joy's back, making her stifle a giggle and causing her sales to go pink.

"Wait a second," Sunny began, noticing the sudden change in Joy's scales. She turned to the dragonets. "Are you awake?!"

"Maybe?" Kelp said sheepishly.

"Oh good." Tsunami commented. "Now I can properly kill you both."

"Run!" Joy yelled, and they jumped off the reed mat and shoved past the teachers, sprinting down the hall.

"GET BACK HERE!" Tsunami yelled after them.

A/N: Sorry this part was short! FYI, I am considering changing the name of this story since it doesn't really fit anymore...Seeing as this is a lot more parts that "Just a little" and it's more about Joy, Rainkeeper, and their friends then Glorybringer. Thoughts? And, if I do decide to change the title, I am considering holding a little contest here for the name of the new title. The winner will get full credit for the name, of course and their favorite part of the story dedicated to them, if they'd like! Let me know what you think! :)

Mottos and Macaw

"Has anyone else realized that we've gone rampaging around the continent and been attacked multiple times with each other, but we really know nothing about one another?" Qibli asked. He, Air, Seashell, Kelp, Joy, Nightflyer, Moon, and Winter were sitting absentmindedly in an empty classroom, snacking on a bunch of grapes.

"Well what do you want to know?" Joy questioned. "At this point I'm pretty much an open book." They all thought for a moment.

"What's your motto?" Moon asked the group.

"Our what?" Seashell said in confusion.

"Your motto. A a short sentence or phrase chosen as encapsulating the beliefs or ideals guiding an individual, family, or institution." Nightflyer recited.

"You know, you're usually a normal dragon, and then you say things like that." Air commented.

"I don't really have a motto, but I have something I go by." Joy replied.

"What is it?" Kelp asked.

"Whenever something unexpected happens in your life, just yell PLOT TWIST and then move on." she explained, popping a grape into her mouth.

"I've got one." Air said shyly. The others waited expectantly. "Be soft, kind, and loving. But also take nobody's shit."

"*OkAy then!*" Qibli said in surprise. Joy applauded.

"WAIT!" she yelled suddenly. "I'VE GOT WINTER'S!"

"Oh no." Winter mumbled.

"Trust me," Joy insisted. "You'll like this. 'The nicer you are, the easier you're hurt. So just be an asshole.'" The other burst out laughing as Winter sat there in stony silence.

"I think I have one," Seashell said unsurely.

"Let's hear it." Moon urged.

"Cute on the outside, but freaky on the inside." Seashell proclaimed.

"I like that one."

Later....

Moon, Air, and Joy were in the library when another dragon in the room let out a gasp.

"Princess Joy!" an annoying voice rang out as a green rainwing came bounding over. Joy bit back a grimace.

"Hello Macaw." she said, her voice suggesting that the very idea of this dragon was enough to cause her physical pain.

"I knew we would meet again. After all, this is only the beginning of our ravishing relationship." he replied, waggling his eyebrows. Air turned away from them, her mouth wide with silent laughter. Moon covered her mouth to smother her laughs. Joy gritted her teeth.

"Really?" she asked, her voice strained.

"Of course." Macaw got a rather odd look on his face, eyeing Joy up and down, his eyes lingering in unsettling places. "Say, Joy? Do you have two tongues in your mouth?" he asked.

"What? No." Joy retorted, her face looking confused and slightly disgusted. Macaw leaned in slightly.

"Would you like to?" he asked. Air was on the floor, bent over a chair, she was laughing so hard. Without missing a beat, Joy pulled a scroll from the rack and glanced at it, checking the title.

"Hey Macaw?" she questioned, not looking up from the scroll. "Do you have a scroll up your ass?"

"No," he replied with a frown. She glanced up at him and waved the scroll in her talons.

"Would you like to?"

Failed Flirting

A/N: For a laugh....Or seven...

"Hmm, haven't I seen you somewhere before?" Macaw asked flirtatiously. Joy sighed. This dragon. This obnoxious, annoying, aggravating, *putrid* dragon. Would. *Not.* Shut. Up.

"Yes, that's why I don't go there anymore." she replied sharply, walking to a scroll rack in the library. Macaw followed her like a loyal dog.

"I think I could make you very happy." he retorted. Kelp glanced up at them from a table, his eyes narrowing at the sight of Macaw.

"Why? Are you leaving?" Joy asked hopefully.

"Oh, come on. You love me. Just admit it and make everything easier." he pleaded, leaning against a scroll rack. "Go on. don't be shy. Ask me out."

"Okay," Joy agreed. She pointed at the door. "Get out."

"If the lady insists," he said with a flirty wink. The second he was gone, Joy let out a frustrated scream and sank into a chair next to Kelp.

"Who was that?" Kelp questioned, trying not to sound as suspicious and jealous as he felt.

"Only the most repulsive, abominable, repugnant, loathsome, foul little gnat the world has to offer." she replied. "And of course, he

has unfortunately set his sights on me."

"Well, for starters, you've been spending way too much time with Nightflyer if you can list all those synonyms." he began. "And, if he becomes a problem, do let me know and I will *gladly* dispose of his dead body somewhere quite unpleasant."

"Don't worry," Joy assured him. "That odious cockroach is the last dragon on the planet you need to be worried about."

"Oh, Joy. Where have you been all my life?" Macaw said dreamily.

"Hiding from you." Joy replied.

"Ah- ah-ah!" he continued. "You aren't allowed to speak. Today you can only address me with song."

"Songs." Joy repeated.

"Yep."

"Well, here's a song for you. Row, row, row your boat, Stay away from me! Merrily, merrily, merrily, merrily, I want you to leave."

"I want you to describe me in one word." Macaw declared.

"One word huh? Hmm, let me think." Joy responded. Kelp watched on, slightly amused. Sure, he could easily bash this dragon's head in, but it was much more entertaining to watch Joy shoot him down. "Since narcissistic is too big of a word for you, how about asshole? Do you understand asshole?" she asked. Kelp buried his snout in his talons to smother his laughter. That was definitely one of her better comebacks.

"Do you believe in love at first sight, or do you want me to walk by again?" Macaw asked.

"Walk by, but this time, don't stop." Joy announced.

"I can see forever in your eyes," Macaw proclaimed.

"funny, cause all I see is never in yours." she retorted.

"Every kiss begins with K!" Macaw protested.

"Oh, thank you for reminding me." Joy agreed as she walked over, grabbed Kelp, and kissed him.

"I'm no cactus expert, but I know a prick when I see one." Joy announced. A moment later, she pointed at the door just as Macaw walked in.

"Shhhhh." Joy whispered. Macaw stopped talking. "If you listen very closely you can hear the glorious sound of you shutting the fuck up."

"Bitch." Macaw whispered as he walked by.

"I've been called worse." Joy proclaimed.

"Like what?"

"Your girlfriend." she replied, with a disgusted look on her face.

"You'll never find anyone else like me Joy!" Macaw declared.

"THAT'S EXACTLY THE POINT!" Joy proclaimed.

"Did you hit your head when you fell from heaven?" Macaw questioned. Starflight bit back a laugh. The two of them had been doing this for weeks. It really was quite amusing.

"No, but I did scrape my knee crawling out of hell," Joy countered, reshelving a scroll.

"Oh, that explains it." Kelp announced.

"Explains what?" Joy asked.

"Why you're so hot." Kelp said obviously, not missing a beat. Joy stared at him for a moment before turning to Macaw.

"You." she said, pointing at him. "Take note." She pointed at Kelp. "*That,* is how you flirt with someone."

Talks

A loud gong ran through the school, signaling the end of class. Firefly, Squelch, Auklet, and Coal jumped to their feet with the rest of the students. The unlikely four had become very close friends over the past few weeks.

"Coal? Can I see you for a minute?" Webs asked. Coal froze. He knew what this would be about. His friends stopped at the doorway.

"We'll meet you at the library?" Squelch asked. Coal nodded, but Firefly glanced on curiously. She trailed behind as Squelch and Auklet walked down the hall before finally running back to the classroom to see what Webs wanted.

"Coal, no excuse is going to cut it. You haven't turned in a single assignment all year. I don't want to have Queen Thorn informed about this, but if it continues you leave me little choice." Webs explained. "Do you understand?"

"Yes sir, I'll try to do better." Coal promised.

"You can go," Webs said with a sigh.

Coal gratefully left the classroom and his eyes widened at the sight of Firefly.

"How come you haven't turned anything in?" she demanded.

"You were listening?" he asked.

"Don't change the subject." Firefly ordered. Coal sighed. He should've expected this. Firefly took schoolwork more importantly than anything, except maybe scrolls.

"I just..didn't understand the work." he admitted.

"Why didn't you say anything? I could've helped you. I still can, if you need it." she insisted. Coal shook his head.

"As much as I appreciate the offer, you can't help me."

"Why not?" Firefly questioned. "What about our assignment for today. Read a passage and answer a couple of questions. That can't be too hard."

"Trust me, it is." Coal objected. A theory worked its way into her head and she stopped Coal at one of the message boards.

"Read that." she told him. Coal froze, his eyes wide. He squinted at the message board.

"Um...ican uh..." he tried.

"Coal," she began. He turned to look at her. She stared at him for a moment. "You can't read, can you?"

"No," Coal admitted. "I got my education from my brothers. That meant that I learned the best places to hide a bomb in a crowded area before I learned how to write my own name." Firefly looked at him with such shock and despair in her eyes that he wanted to hide in a hole.

"You don't know how to- *THAT'S IT*!" she announced. "I'M TEACHING YOU!"

"Firefly, you don't need to-"

"*No buts!*" she yelled. "You're learning, and that's final!" With that, she stomped down the hallway, Coal following her, bewildered. *I'm not supposed to get close to her,* he reminded himself. *But she's just teaching me something, we can't get* that *close.....can we?*

Seashell walked down the hallways of JMA, searching. Finally, she spotted the dragon she was looking for. Kelp was leaning against the wall, talking to Joy as she laughed.

"Kelp," she said as she approached. "Might I have a word?"

"Of course," Kelp insisted, shooting a grin at Joy. "I'll see you later." he promised. Seashell smiled at Joy, and grabbed her brother's arm, practically dragging him down the hallway. When they were far enough away, and alone, she released him. "Seashell what the-"

"Do you *not* remember the agreement?" she hissed at him. "You're not allowed to-"

"Of course I remember!" Kelp hissed back. "How could I ever forget?" he grumbled.

"And yet, here you are, flirting with Joy! Do you want her to get hurt?" Seashell demanded.

"Of course not," Kelp retorted. "But....I'd just like to have some happiness in my life, if that's not too much to ask!"

"Kelp, you can have plenty of happiness without-"

"I know that," Kelp continued. "But that doesn't mean I can't get close to-"

"You can't be with her, Kelp!" Seashell blurted. "You can't be with anyone! *Especially* not someone like Joy!"

"You think I don't know that?" Kelp replied. "It goes through my head for hours on end, every time I see her. I'm losing sleep over this for crying out loud! She's knows she can't be with me either, but she doesn't care! Why should I?"

"Because there is a *lot* more at stake then a broken heart in your case." Seashell explained. "Are you really willing to risk *everything* Mom has done for us over some girl you don't even have a chance with?" Kelp's face flashed with anger.

"Yes." he said fiercely. "I am. She's worth it. And I *do* have a chance with her, no matter what anyone says."

"What makes you so sure?" Seashell demanded. "If you really care about Joy, you need to let her go. Let her be happy with somebody else. Hurt her to spare her." Kelp hesitated, stamping his foot.

"I can't do that, Seashell. I can't."

"Why not?" She questioned. "I am just trying to protect you, Kelp. It's for your own good and hers."

"I *can't*."

"But why?"

"Because I love her!" Kelp blurted. "At least, I think I do." Seashell stared at him, despair in her eyes.

"You know, you've known, that you're not allowed to have that." she said weakly.

"I didn't mean to!" Kelp exclaimed. "But it was four in the morning and we were laughing too hard and I felt happier than I had in a long time and...it just happened."

"Well, snap out of it!" Seashell proclaimed. She paused and stared at her brother. "Please tell me you haven't kissed her yet." Kelp didn't respond, but his eyes said it all. Seashell swore. "What are we gonna do now?" she asked.

"I don't know." Kelp admitted. "But I am not letting her go."

It's Kinda A Long Story.

It had been a week since Kelp and Seashell's little 'talk' and Kelp had reluctantly kept his distance from Joy. She tried to talk to him, but he refused to respond. The thing that hurt her the most is that he stopped showing up for dance lessons. But now, she was past upset, past sad. Now, she was just plain ticked off. She was going to figure out what had happened. One way, or another.

The day started off normally. The usual group of eight was walking down the hallway together, but Joy was being unusually quiet. None of them were concerned until Kelp was slammed against the wall and a chakram was pressed to his throat.

"Whoa!" Qibli yelled in surprise.

"Joy stop!" Nightflyer cried.

"Bad Joy! Put. The chakram. Down." Air scolded.

"No!" Joy yelled fiercely. She turned her attention to Kelp. The Seawing was staring at her with fear and surprise, but he also had a strange expression on his face, as if he was almost enjoying her hostility. "You've been ignoring me." she noted. "Why?"

"I didn't want to, "Kelp admitted, eyeing the silver blade of the chakram. His gaze landed on Seashell. "This is all your fault you know!" he commented at her.

"How is it my fault?" Seashell demanded.

"You were the one that reminded me of the stupid agreement and forced me to stay away from her!" Kelp retorted.

"I didn't think she'd react like this!" Seashell countered.

"Well, then you obviously know nothing about her." Kelp continued.

"Wait what?" Joy said in confusion. She released Kelp and turned to Seashell. "This was your doing?!" she yelled, lunging at the Seawing. Air and Nightflyer quickly grabbed a hold of her.

"What agreement?" Moon asked. The twin's eyes widened.

"We might as well tell them." Kelp insisted.

"No! We're not supposed to tell anyone, remember?" Seashell begged.

"They're are friends, Seashell! They deserve to know!" Kelp countered.

"Know what?" Qibli asked suspiciously.

"About the agreement that our-"

"Kelp!" Seashell shouted.

"I don't care! If you won't tell them, then I will!" he insisted.

"Kelp. Explain. Now." Winter demanded. Kelp sighed.

"It's kinda've a long story."

A few minutes later, the group was sitting in an empty cave, awaiting Kelp and Seashell's explanation.

"Let's start at the very beginning," Kelp suggested.

"Which is before we're even born." Seashell added.

"Okay." Kelp began.

"Anyone who knows the story of the Dragonets of Destiny knows that Queen Coral....didn't exactly approve of Tsunami and Riptide's relationship. Or of Riptide's general existence. But neither of them cared about that. They ended up dating in secret for a few years after the war ended until they decided to get married. But, of

course, that meant they had to tell Queen Coral. Tsunami hoped that Coral would put aside her old feelings about Riptide and accept the marriage, but she was wrong. Coral threatened to ban the marriage if they didn't break up, but they refused. Tsunami told her mother that the marriage was going to happen whether she liked it or not, and Coral said that if Tsunami married him, she would no longer be Coral's daughter. She would be disowned. Tsunami stared straight at her mother and said that she guessed that she was no longer her daughter. Then she left. About a month later, Riptide and Tsunami got married. Then, about two years later, Seashell and I were born. Coral was angered about the marriage, but she was furious when she learned of us. So she decided to take matters into her own hands." he paused, letting this sink in.

"She sent assassins to kill us." Kelp explained.

"No," Seashell countered. "She sent assassins to kill you."

"Fine, just me." Kelp continued. "For nearly a year, these dragons kept showing up and trying to attack me. Our parents always ended up fighting them off, or killing the dragons if necessary. Finally, Tsunami had enough and she went to Coral to demand that it stopped. They got into a huge fight before the idea of an agreement came up. A document that they could compromise on. A truce. Coral listed her demands and Tsunami agreed to them. She gave up a lot so that we could be safe. But...there was one more thing. To properly seal the agreement, Anemone enchanted it. So, if we break anything on the agreement....My dad and I drop dead."

"*WHAT!?!?!!*" Joy yelled.

"What was on the agreement?" Qibli persisted.

"No one in our family is allowed into the Sea Kingdom," Seashell recited.

"Seashell and I aren't allowed to know Aquatic." Kelp added.

"Tsunami isn't allowed to challenge for the throne,"

"We must refer to the Queen as Queen Coral rather than

'Grandmother' or something else that assumes we're related."

"We're not to be addressed as a Prince and a Princess because we aren't allowed to hold those titles in the Sea Kingdom."

"There's a whole bunch more," Seashell explained.

"But there's one more they should know about." Kelp added softly.

"What is it?" Joy asked nervously. Kelp glanced up, unable to meet any of their eyes.

"In order to 'end a horrid, tainted bloodline' and keep me from 'temptation'," he began. He hesitated, attempting to swallow the lump in his throat. "I'm not allowed to get married."

A/N: Title

I am officially changing the title of this story!!

But I have no idea what to change it to!!!

Please help!

If you have an idea for a name for this story, Please fill this out.

Form-

Name:

Title:

Your Favorite Section Of The Story:

Example-

Just A Little Glorybringer For Ya

The Order Of Cruel And Unusual Punishment

Ta-da!

Please send me some! I'm kinda doing this in a contest way... if that makes any sense...

Who's ever title I pick will-

-Get the part they named in the form dedicated to them

-Obviously have their title be the title of this book

-Get full credit

-Will have their name join Tui T. Sutherland

and @GlorybringerRulesAll whenever I do a disclaimer

-Will have their name in the little thing you read before reading the actual story I don't know what it's called but you know what I'm talking about.

Please comment! If I think of a title I will tell you about it to hear your opinion before changing the name!

I will be announcing the new name before I actually change it so none of my awesome readers lose the story and are sad.

Samwich out! :)

Loopholes And Visions

Joy winced as Kelp's words sank in. They felt like a stab to the chest, although her mind wasn't sure why. Her heart understood perfectly though. She wasn't supposed to be with Kelp in the first place. The universe was simply confirming what she already knew. And yet...it still *hurt*. It hurt more than anything. Breathing was becoming more difficult by the second.

"Wait what?" Nightflyer said in disbelief. "That...that can't be right!" His thoughts swam. The visions. All those visions....would never happen? But that couldn't be! If the more visions you had on a subject, the more likely it was to occur, then there should be no possible chance of Kelp not ending up with-

"I have to go." Joy said abruptly. Without another word, she fled from the room,leaving Kelp looking even more crestfallen than before.

"There's got to be a way around this." Moon insisted. She couldn't believe it either. Kelp and Joy....not happening? Was that even an option?

"You're right," Qibli agreed. "Surely there's a loophole or something."

"We could check, but I doubt we'll find anything." Seashell offered. "Coral gave me a copy of the agreement once, to help me 'remember my place' as she put it."

"Well, then let's check!" Air exclaimed.

"Guys, you don't have to do this." Kelp insisted.

"Uh, yes we do." Nightflyer said matter-factly. Moon nodded in agreement.

"The future refuses to let you die alone Kelp, there's gotta be a reason why." she declared.

A few minutes later, the group was staring at the agreement so hard it looked as if they were trying to mentally set it on fire. Air had gone off to find Joy and make sure she was alright while the others searched for a loophole.

"Kelp is not allowed to marry a Seawing or to further taint another Seawing bloodline with dragonets." the paper read. For the next ten minutes, each of them stared at the line and wracked their brains.

"Oh my gosh, we are all idiots." Qibli suddenly proclaimed, smacking himself in the forehead.

"Why?" Moon asked.

"It says that Kelp is not allowed to marry a Seawing." Qibli explained. The others stared blankly. "It doesn't say he can'r marry someone from another tribe."

"Oh my moons," Nightflyer groaned. He hit his head against the wall. "We are idiots." A chorus of Ohs went up as each of them realized it. Kelp lit up like a Christmas tree and bolted down the hallway.

"We've gotta tell Joy!" he yelled.

Air found her in the corner of the music cave, her head in her talons.

"Joy?" she asked cautiously, stepping closer.

"Go away Air." the hybrid replied softly. Instead, Air sat down next to her.

"Are you alright?" she questioned.

"No," Joy admitted, her voice breaking. Her talons dropped and Air

noticed the redness of her friends eyes. She'd been crying.

"Hey," Air said gently. "It's alright. The others are looking for a loophole right now. They're bound to find something." Joy smirked.

"And even if they do? What happens when my family says no? What happens when Coral finds out and wants revenge? Just because we find a loophole for this problem doesn't stop even more issues from forming."

"Well, you'll cross those bridges when you get to them. You shouldn't worry about potential problems now." Air suggested.

"I just...I want someone to tell me it's right." Joy explained. "I want someone to tell me that it'll work, that all of this is worth it. I feel like it is, but I just want someone to confirm it." The sound of footsteps stopped Air from responding.

Nightflyer entered the room with a grin.

"I knew you'd be in here. The others didn't believe me, so they're still searching all over the place." he announced. Then he noticed their solemn faces. "Joy? Are you alright?"

"I think I'll go round up the others," Air offered, leaving the room. There was a pause before Nightflyer spoke.

"I heard that last part of your conversation." he admitted. "It is worth it." he promised.

"And how would you know?" Joy questioned. Nightflyer sighed.

"Because I can see the future." he began. "I've seen it, Joy. I've seen you and Kelp together. I see it in nearly every vision I have with you or him in it." Joy's head shot up.

"What have you seen? " she demanded.

"You know, the usual stuff," Nightflyer insisted. "Your wedding, your son, your lives together in the rainforest-"

"Son?" Joy interrupted. "I have a son?" Nightflyer grinned.

"Oh yeah. He has sisters too, but moons does that boy act a lot like you." She smiled, her eyes shining with fresh tears.

"I want to hear more about him." Joy declared. "I want to hear everything."

"If you insist." Nightflyer said with a grin. "He's one of the only dragonets I ever get visions about, besides the two weird ones."

"The weird ones?" Joy questioned, standing up and walking out of the cave with him.

"Yea. I keep having these visions about an odd-looking Skywing and a Nightwing. They're dragonets, and they're usually running as if they're afraid." He explained.

"What makes them so odd?"

"Well, the little Nightwing one, she's adorable, but she has brown eyes. And the Skywing's scales almost look smoky. Like there's black and amber in them. It's weird. I keep dreaming of them but I have no idea who they are." he elaborated. Joy smiled mischievously and barked a laugh. "What?" Nightflyer demanded.

"Oh, I know who they are." Joy said bemusedly.

"Who?" He urged. She didn't respond, just kept grinning.

Let me think, she thought in her head. *A NightWing and a Skywing, one of them with brown eyes, have two dragonets. Hmm, I wonder who their parents could be.*

Music Night

Do you like to sing? Do you enjoy music? Then come to our first ever Jade Mountain Academy Music Night! Sing a song, or just dance along for an evening of fun!

The school was buzzing with excitement. A music night. It sounded fun! And it was an excuse to stay up later then they were normally allowed. Joy, personally, was thrilled. One of the main things she missed about the rainforest was the fiestas, and now they were bringing the fiesta here! She knew for a fact that her and the rest of the Rainwing students were going to deliver on the party power. She just hoped that the teachers could handle the mess that dancing rainwings meant.

"Joy!" a voice called from behind her. She turned to see Kelp running to catch up with her.

"Hey Kelp," she greeted him with a smile. They kept walking.

"Hey Joy?" he asked. "We're....okay. Right?"

"Of course, we're okay." she agreed. "We're better than okay, if I dare to say so." He grinned. "Now, are you prepared to wow the school with your amazing dance moves on music night?"

"Uh..." Kelp said uncertainly. "I'm not sure."

"Oh, come on. You're a great dancer!" she insisted. "If it makes you feel any better, I'll dance with you."

"That's the problem," he explained. "I know I can dance with you, but I'm pretty sure I will fail epically if I dance alone, or with someone else."

"Then I guess you'll just have to dance to every song with me." she

suggested with a smile.

"If I can be given that honor." Kelp countered.

Music Night.....

All of JMA was packed into the largest cave in the mountain. Music was playing, there was a table full of food, and everything else was the dance floor. Lanterns were strung from the ceiling, with colorful rainforest leaves covering them, so that the light was shades of pink, blue, and green. Tsunami, Sunny, and Fatespeaker were positioned around the cave. The teachers were going in shifts. In an hour, Clay, Starflight, and Webs would take their places. Air and Nightflyer purposefully memorized the shift schedule to prevent Clay from seeing them dance together. But for now, it was time to party.

"So!" Joy announced to the group. They were crowded together at one corner of the room. "Who's going to sing tonight? Cause I know I am!" The others quickly looked away for fear of Joy's questioning.

"I might. But I"m still deciding." Kelp admitted.

"Oh please do! I want to hear you sing!" Joy begged. "Anyone else? What about you, Nightflyer? Don't you want to wow the crowd with your voice?" Nightflyer froze, his eyes wide.

"You can sing?" Air asked. Nightflyer nodded slightly. "Oh, please sing a song!" Air pleaded.

"No." Nightflyer said firmly.

"Come on Nightflyer, now we're curious." Seashell insisted. Nightflyer shook his head.

"No way. Not happening."

"*Nightflyer,*" Air sang, a sultry look on her face. "Sing a song for me?" He made the mistake of glancing at her, and then staring.

"Dammit," he mumbled under his breath. "Fine! I'll do one song." The group cheered.

A little while later, Nightflyer found himself on the makeshift 'stage'. He froze slightly. *Why the hell did I agree to this?* he wondered. His eyes searched out the crowd before they landed on Air. She was watching him, a hopeful smile on her face. *Sing a song for me?* her voice rang in his head. *Alright. Let's do this.*

Air and the others watched on as Nightflyer began to sing.

https://youtu.be/_H6j82dCNHI

"I'm only one call away
I'll be there to save the day
Superman got nothing on me
I'm only one call away

Call me, baby, if you need a friend
I just wanna give you love
Come on, come on, come on
Reaching out to you, so take a chance

No matter where you go
You know you're not alone

I'm only one call away
I'll be there to save the day
Superman got nothing on me
I'm only one call away

Come along with me and don't be scared
I just wanna set you free
Come on, come on, come on
You and me can make it anywhere
For now, we can stay here for a while, ay
'Cause you know, I just wanna see you smile

No matter where you go
You know you're not alone

I'm only one call away
I'll be there to save the day
Superman got nothing on me

I'm only one call away

And when you're weak I'll be strong
I'm gonna keep holding on
Now don't you worry, it won't be long, Darling
And when you feel like hope is gone
Just run into my arms

I'm only one call away
I'll be there to save the day
Superman got nothing on me
I'm only one, I'm only one call away
I'll be there to save the day
Superman got nothing on me
I'm only one call away

I'm only one call away"

Cheers went up as the song ended. Nightflyer went red and quickly ran from the stage. The others ran up to him and Joy yelled.

"I knew you could do it!" Air threw her arms around him.

"That was amazing." she declared.

"I sang it for you." he whispered. She grinned. "I know."

Next up was Joy. She bounced on stage confidently and grinned. Kelp watched on intently, curious to hear her sing. Joy started to dance on the stage as the music began.

https://youtu.be/vu9mAAr1pBI

"I hear your heart beat to the beat of the drums
Oh, what a shame that you came here with someone
So while you're here in my arms
Let's make the most of the night like we're gonna die young
We're gonna die young
We're gonna die young
Let's make the most of the night like we're gonna die young

Let's make the most of the night like we're gonna die young

Young hearts, out our minds
Runnin' till we outta time
Wild childs, lookin' good
Livin' hard just like we should
Don't care whose watching when we tearing it up
That magic that we got nobody can touch

Looking for some trouble tonight
Take my hand, I'll show you the wild side
Like it's the last night of our lives
We'll keep dancing till we die

I hear your heart beat to the beat of the drums
Oh, what a shame that you came here with someone
So while you're here in my arms
Let's make the most of the night like we're gonna die young
We're gonna die young
We're gonna die young
Let's make the most of the night like we're gonna die young

Let's make the most of the night like we're gonna die

Young hunks, taking shots
Stripping down to dirty socks
Music up, gettin' hot
Kiss me, give me all you've got
It's pretty obvious that you've got a crush
That magic in your pants, it's making me blush

Looking for some trouble tonight
Take my hand I'll show you the wild side
Like it's the last night of our lives
We'll keep dancing till we die

I hear your heart beat to the beat of the drums
Oh, what a shame that you came here with someone
So while you're here in my arms,
Let's make the most of the night like we're gonna die young

I hear your heart beat to the beat of the drums
Oh, what a shame that you came here with someone

So while you're here in my arms
Let's make the most of the night like we're gonna die young
We're gonna die young
We're gonna die young
Let's make the most of the night like we're gonna die young"

Jaws had dropped when the song began, but now the room roared with applause and it was easy to see why. Kelp's eyes were wide. He expected her to be a good singer, but he didn't expect her to be *that* good. He felt bad for the dragon that had to follow her. That is, until he saw the dragon that followed her. Of course Macaw had to sing. Of *course.* As the putrid dragon got on stage, Joy made her way back to the group.

"Thoughts?" Joy asked, still grinning.

"I'm not sure what was more shocking," Winter admitted. "That you can sing, or that you can dance." Joy's jaw dropped.

"*I* am a great dancer!" she insisted. "Come on Kelp, we'll show them."

"Not a good choice. Kelp is the worst dancer in Pyrrhia." Seashell explained.

"Is that so?" Kelp demanded. "Then I guess I'll have to prove you wrong." Even though the music was horrible, and Macaw was butchering a Taylor Swift song with his off-key voice, they danced. The others watched them in shock. Day one of school, all Kelp did was fall on his face, but now he could dance? How? He and Joy...they looked so natural together. It was incredible to watch them.

Later...

"This is the last song of the evening folks," Clay announced before Kelp went on. The seawing stepped onto the stage and glanced out. Joy was right up front, practically leaning on the edge of the stage. Kelp took a deep breath, grinned at Joy, and began to sing.

https://youtu.be/nEIcTstEmnQ

Uptown girl
She's been living in her uptown world
I bet she's never had a backstreet guy
I bet her momma never told her why

I'm gonna try for an uptown girl
She's been living in her white bread world
As long as anyone with hot blood can
And now she's looking for a downtown man
That's what I am

And when she knows what
She wants from her time
And when she wakes up
And makes up her mind

She'll see I'm not so tough
Just because
I'm in love with an uptown girl
You know I've seen her in her uptown world
She's getting tired of her high class toys
And all her presents from her uptown boys
She's got a choice

Uptown girl
You know I can't afford to buy her pearls
But maybe someday when my ship comes in
She'll understand what kind of guy I've been
And then I'll win

And when she's walking
She's looking so fine
And when she's talking
She'll say that she's mine

She'll say I'm not so tough
Just because
I'm in love
With an uptown girl
She's been living in her white bread world
As long as anyone with hot blood can

And now she's looking for a downtown man
That's what I am

Uptown girl
She's my uptown girl
You know I'm in love
With an uptown girl
My uptown girl
You know I'm in love
With an uptown girl
My uptown girl
You know I'm in love
With an uptown girl
My uptown girl
You know I'm in love
With an uptown girl

Cheers went up yet again as the evening came to a close.

"That was great!" Joy exclaimed when Kelp stepped off the stage.

"You were better," he commented.

"Joy, oh lovely Joy!" an annoying voice called out. Joy bit back a groan. "I just wanted to tell you that I sang my song to you, and that you were absolutely thrilling to listen to." Macaw proclaimed.

"Thank you Macaw." Joy said through gritted teeth. She quickly walked away, Kelp following after her.

"What song did he even sing?" Kelp questioned.

"He sang 'You Belong With Me'." Joy said sarcastically. "And I don't."

In The Night

A/N: Please keep in mind during this part that this is a fanfiction, meaning that the truth doesn't matter.

Firefly browsed through the scrolls in the library until one peaked her interest. *Animus Magic And What We Know About It.* That sounded intriguing. She pulled the scroll from the rack and sat down to read. She read through the scroll before freezing at one part.

"*Many animuses have said that they have always felt a sort of tingling in their talons, as if they could feel the magic in them and it was waiting to burst out. This sensation is now one of the more common ways to determine if a dragon is an animus or not, but the easiest way to determine is with the animus test.*" Firefly frowned. That sensation sounded...familiar. She glanced around the library, her eyes landing on one of the scroll racks.

Why not try it for fun? It's not like anything's going to happen. she thought. She focused her attention of one of the scrolls. *Drop to the ground*. she ordered in her mind. The scroll fell to the floor.

On the other side of the library, Moon was also browsing the scrolls. A thud sounded and she turned to see Firefly jump to her feet and bolt out of the room like she'd been electrocuted, her face contorted in terror. Moon raised an eyebrow and noted the abandoned scrolls lying on the ground. With a sigh, she went over and picked them up. *Animus Magic And What Know About It*? Could be interesting. *The Potential Dangers Of Animus Magic And How To Avoid Them,* the other scroll read. Moon frowned. Why was Firefly so interested in animus magic?

That Night....

Firefly slipped out of her sleeping cave, making sure to keep quiet. She wasn't supposed to be out and about, but she had to be sure of something. She had hidden for the rest of the day, her thoughts

swimming as she stared at her talons, willing it all to be just a strange coincidence. She had missed meeting with Coal for their lesson too, which only made her feel more guilty. But if it wasn't a coincidence...what if it wasn't? What if she was an animus? She had to be sure, and, lucky for her, there was a dragon in Jade Mountain that was bound to help her find out.

Sure enough, Stonemover was awake. She stood nervously at the cave entrance as he looked at her.

"Hello," he greeted her in a rumbling voice.

"Hi," Firefly said shyly.

"I haven't had many visitors from the school, and none of them have come this late." he remarked. "Who are you?"

"I- I'm Firefly." she squeaked out.

"Firefly. And what brings you here?" he asked. She took a deep breath and walked into the cave.

"I....I think I might be an animus." she admitted. Stonemover sighed.

"Plenty of dragonets want to be animuses, but none of them ever realized how horrible it really is to be one. I suggest you stop wishing for a curse like that." he offered. Firefly shook her head.

"No. You don't understand. I don't *want* to be an animus. I know how awful it is, I've read about what can happen." she explained. She relayed to him what had happened earlier in the day, and he listened intently as she talked about how much she didn't want it to be true.

"Well, there's only one way to find out," Stonemover replied. He nodded at a bone laying on the ground. "Make that do something. Fly up and hit the ceiling, explode into a cloud of dust, anything." he instructed. Firefly stared at the bone for a moment.

"Turn into a mouse." she commanded. There was a small squeak as the bone transformed before their eyes. Stonemover stared at the

little mouse before glancing back at Firefly.

"I think that answers your question."

Meanwhile...

Joy awoke with a start, her heart pounding from a horrible nightmare. Sweat covered her face as she panted slightly, shaking with lingering fear. She glanced around the room, noting that Moon and Air were sound asleep. Joy didn't know why, but she suddenly felt very alone, very... vulnerable. She didn't like this feeling. She wanted someone near her.

But who could she go to? It's not like she could wake up Air because she felt alone in a room with two other dragons.

There was one idea in her mind, a horrible idea.

And yet, it was growing on her and her lasting fear from the nightmare beckoned her to go through with it.

Taking a deep breath, and still shaking slightly, Joy quietly left the cave. She walked down the hall until she reached the cave she was looking for. She hesitated in the doorway, unsure of what to do next. There were two dragon in the room, both of them sleeping. She stared at the dragon closer to her, watching as he slowly woke up.

Kelp felt as if he was being watched. He opened his eyes and saw Joy standing in the doorway. She looked shaken, almost... scared.

"Bad dream?" he asked. She nodded. "Do you want to talk about it?" She shook her head quickly, tears brewing in her eyes. "Come here," Kelp insisted, beckoning her over. She laid down next to him with a grateful sigh.

"Can I just stay here?" she whispered, her voice shaky.

"Of course." Kelp agreed, wrapping his arm around her. She relaxed and curled up next to him, her eyes growing heavy. Kelp stayed awake until he was sure she was asleep, then he smiled slightly and closed his eyes.

A little while later...

Nightflyer sighed. He officially could not sleep. He wished that he could go flying, but he knew how much trouble that would get him in. What if he just went for a walk? That might help. He sighed again and got to his feet, walking towards the door. He walked past Kelp's bed, reached the doorway, and froze. After a pause he walked backwards to look at Kelp's bed again.

Joy?!

What the heck was *Joy* doing in Kelp's bed?

And how long had she been there?

Oh, I am sooo going to use this against them. Nightflyer promised, walking out of the room with a grin on his face.

He walked absentmindedly around until he ended up away from the school. That's when he heard voices talking. *There shouldn't be anyone over here,* he realized, walking towards the sound. He saw a light up ahead and stood next to the doorway to eavesdrop. There were two voices, one was older and deeper, and the other.....That didn't make any sense. The other voice sounded like Firefly. But Firefly would never be out this late. She was a goody-two shoes, always following the rules. He took a chance and peered into the room. Sure enough, it was her. But what was she doing?

"I should probably turn him back," Firefly suggested, nodding at a mouse on the ground.

"Yes, that's probably for the best." Stonemover agreed. "But then you should never use this again, understand?"

"Yes." Firefly said with a nod. She turned to the mouse. "Turn back into a bone." she ordered. And the mouse changed. Nightflyer bit back a gasp and then a scream. He darted back into the hallway and tried to calm down. But then Firefly left the room and he grabbed her arm.

She froze with fear in her eyes.

"Nightflyer, I-"

"You're an animus?!"

Confessions

A/N: Like the cover?

Nightflyer paced back and forth across the room, his mind racing.

"Nightflyer, would you please calm down?" Firefly pleaded.

"Calm down. *Calm down?!* I just found out my baby sister is an animus, and you want me to *CALM DOWN?*" he retorted.

"Hey. I am not a baby." she said defensively.

"You are to me." he replied. He stopped pacing and sighed, rubbing the spot between his eyes. "Who else knows?"

"No one. I just found out today." Firefly admitted. "Nightflyer, please *please* don't tell anyone! I don't want anyone to know!"

"Not even Mother and Father?"

"*Especially* not Father and Mother."

"Firefly they should know," he said, trying to sound reasonable. She paused for a moment.

"Promise me you won't tell anyone."

"I promise." Nightflyer swore with a sigh.

"No, that's not good enough. *Promise* me, Nightflyer. Not a soul. Not, Dad, not Mother, not even Air." she repeated. Nightflyer froze. He hadn't even considered Air. But... he couldn't keep a secret from her! This was *Air* they were talking about. But he also couldn't betray his little sister's trust...

Moons, this was all so confusing.

"I promise I will not tell a soul." he vowed. Firefly sighed with relief. "But I still think you should tell Mother and Father. In your own time, if not soon." he added. Firefly nodded.

"I'll think about it."

The Next Day...

The usual group was sitting at their normal place in the Prey Center. Seashell and Moon were whispering happily about how the talon length distance between Joy and Kelp had gotten shorter. Nightflyer was staring smugly at Kelp and Joy, wondering if they would say anything.

"What are you staring at?" Joy finally demanded.

"Oh, nothing." he commented. "But you two were very naughty dragons last night." The others frowned as Joy went pink and Kelp's eyes widened.

"Nightflyer. You say one word, and I'll cut your freaking heart out." Joy growled. He grinned again.

"What did they do?!" Seashell, Moon, and Air yelled at the same time.

"Tell us!" Seashell added. Nightflyer glanced from the girl's hopeful faces to Joy's murderous one.

"I'm afraid I can't say," he admitted. "for I happen to value my life."

"Wise choice," Joy snapped. Red and pink swam on her scales until Kelp calmly put a talon on her shoulder. Then her scales slowly paled to a calm blue. "I'm watching you." she commented.

"You don't have to," Nightflyer promised. "Just, next time, make sure I'm really asleep." Seashell let out a scream of frustration.

"NOW I NEED TO KNOW EVEN MORE!" she yelled. They laughed.

Later...

Air and Nightflyer were in an empty cave. The day was winding down as they watched the stars come out from a window.

"So, what's new and upcoming with you?" Nightflyer questioned. Air grinned.

"Not much, really. Webs wants me to trace some maps for some project he's planning, so beware your future history assignments." she warned. He let out a laugh.

"That's it? That is really all that is happening in the incredulous world of Air?" he asked.

"Well, there is one other thing..." she admitted. "But you probably don't want to hear about it."

"Try me."

"My Mother's coming for a visit in two days." she explained with a smile. "It's my hatching day and so she, Squelch, Dad and I are going to do something." Nightflyer's jaw dropped.

"It's your hatching day?" he said in shock.

"Yes,"

"And you thought I wouldn't care? I didn't know you had your hatching day while we were at school! Why didn't you say anything last year, we could've thrown a party!"

"Well, last year we were a little busy trying not to get killed," she retorted.

"Touché" Nightflyer replied with a shrug. "But don't think that I am going to let it pass back this year like just another day."

"Three moons, now I'm slightly scared." She admitted. Nightflyer grinned.

"Don't be," he insisted. "I am simply going to make sure this is one hatching day you will never forget."

Air's Hatching Day

[image]

A/N: Picture is of Air's necklace

Nightflyer searched the halls with a slight frown on his face. Tomorrow was Air's hatching day, and yet, he hadn't been able to find her all day. That was odd. He peered into the music cave, but only saw Joy and Qibli arguing over sheet music.

"Have either of you seen Air?" he asked. They shook their heads. He sighed. Where was she?

He found her in the cave they had watched the sky from the night before, the one with a window that overlooked everything. If you squinted, you might be able to see the edge of the Sand Kingdom in the distance. Air was sitting on the floor, tracing maps.

"There you are!" Nightflyer exclaimed. "I've been looking for you all day!" Air let up a talon and pointed at him, not looking up from her work.

"No." she ordered.

"No what?" he asked. She scowled at him.

"I have to get these maps done for Webs by tomorrow, and I am not going to let you distract me." she explained. He grinned and slid over next to her.

"Aww, not even a little distraction?" he teased.

"No," Air repeated, blushing slightly. He quickly snatched a pencil out of her talons. "Nightflyer! Give that back!" she cried. He stood up and backed up to the window.

"If you *ever* want to see this pencil alive again, you'll come with me." he announced.

"And why would I do that?" she demanded.

"Because tomorrow is your hatching day and I won't get to see you then, so I have to give you your two-part present now." he declared. "Please? I've got it all planned out." Air hesitated, eyeing him warily. "Well, I did warn you." he insisted before chucking the pencil out the window. As ridiculous as it was, Air dove after it, Nightflyer following her out the window.

"You're crazy!" she proclaimed, a smile on her face. "What do you expect me to tell Webs when he asks for the maps?"

"That I love you!" Nightflyer announced, flying off. Air shook her head and followed him.

They landed alongside a river.

"So, what's this two-part present of yours?" she questioned. He grinned.

"Now, now. We can't open presents before we play a few games, now can we?" he said incredulously.

"And what games did you have in mind?" she asked, a taunting look on her face. An impish smile quirked at the corner of his mouth.

"Well," Nightflyer began. "We're near a riverside, you're half Mudwing, and a little bird told me that you don't mind a bit of mud. Whatever shall we do?" he wondered. Air glanced over at the river. Sure enough, there was fresh mud just laying there on the banks. She barely hesitated before jumping at the squishy substance. Nightflyer shook his head as she rolled in the mud, brown goo covering her maroon scales. Suddenly, something sticky hit him in the stomach. Mud. Air laughed at his shocked expression. It didn't last long. Before they knew it, a two dragon mud war had begun. They chucked the stuff at each other until someone could mistake them both for Mudwings. They laughed and shouted casual threats as the fight went on.

Later....

It was getting late, or early, depending on how you looked at it. The mud fight had gone on for hours before they decided to wash off in the river as the sun set. Nightflyer and Air should've been back at the school hours ago, but it's easy to lose track of time as you're flying under the stars. It was almost dawn when they landed at the top of Jade Mountain, waiting for the sun to rise.

"Now it's time for presents." he admitted. "If you want."

"Okay. "Air said with a smile.

"Close your eyes." Nightflyer said ominously. Air did as she was told and listened as Nightflyer snuck behind her. Something cool was dropped onto her neck. "Okay! You can open your eyes!" he announced. Air immediately looked down and gasped slightly. It was a necklace. It was on a gold chain with a beautiful purple stone hanging from it.

"Do you like it?" Nightflyer asked tentatively. "My original goal was to find something as pretty as you, but then I realized that was impossible, so I had to settle for the closest thing I could find." he added.

"Nightflyer," she breathed. "It's beautiful. She smiled at him. "I love it!" she exclaimed, hugging him.

As they watched, the sun rose, the colors of the sky blending together. Air stared at the horizon with a smile, while Nightflyer watched her. He grinned as the light of the sunrise reflected off her brown eyes. *Yep,* he thought. *I knew this would be beautiful.*

They walked through the halls of JMA, their talons entwined.

"Hey!" Air realized.

"What?" Nightflyer.

"You said that you had a two-part present for me. What was the second part?" she asked. He blushed slightly.

"Oh..it...it was nothing." he trailed off. She grinned.

"Tell me!"

"All right," he agreed nervously. "It was this." Air waited, curious. Nightflyer took a deep breath, and kissed her. Air's eyes widened in shock at first before they slowly closed as she took in the kiss. When it ended, they stood there for a moment, staring at each other. Nightflyer grinned.

"Happy hatching day, Air." he whispered before running down the hallway with embarrassment. Air walked back to her sleeping cave in a daze. She laid on her bed, her head propped up on her talons, a dreamy expression on her face. That's how Joy and Moon would find her the next day.

Slaps "Well, That Didn't Work. NEXT!"

Joy, Moon, and Seashell stood in Joy's sleeping cave, staring. Air was still laying on her bed in the same exact way she had been last night. It looked as if she hadn't so much as blinked.

"Air?" Joy questioned. "You okay?" She didn't respond. Seashell waved her talons in front of Air's face. She didn't even blink. They went back to studying her.

"Maybe she's dead." Seashell suggested. Joy pressed her talons onto the hybrid's neck.

"Nope, she's got a pulse." Joy declared.

"Well, then that means it's definitely Air, and not some statue she put here to prank us." Moon confirmed. They stared again.

"Maybe we should slap her." Seashell offered. There was a pause.

"I'LL DO IT!" Joy volunteered.

"No way, I wanna slap her!" Seashell cried.

"BUT I CAN HIT HER MORE EFFECTIVELY!" Joy countered.

"BUT IT WAS MY IDEA!" Seashell shot back.

"*NOBODY IS GOING TO SLAP HER!*" Moon announced.

"Fine." they grumbled.

"Maybe one of the boys has an idea," Moon suggested.

"Great idea Moon, I'll go get Kelp." Joy said happily, running out of the room. Moon watched her go, and, while she was distracted, Seashell leaned over and smacked Air. Nothing.

"Well, that didn't work." she commented. "Next?"

Joy walked into Kelp's sleeping cave to find Winter, Qibli, and Kelp in a similar predicament. Nightflyer was on his bed, a big goofy grin on his face.

"You guys too?" she asked.

"What do you mean? "Kelp questioned.

"Air's been frozen all day. We've slapped her, yelled in her ears, taken her pulse, waved our talons in front of her face. She hasn't even blinked." Joy explained.

"Nightflyer's the same way, only we also threatened him, and breathed a little frostbreath on the end of his tail." Qibli added.

"Huh. Have you tried burning him?" she asked. They shook their heads.

"Worth a shot." Qibli admitted, breathing a little bit of fire at the end of Nightflyer's tail. Nothing.

"Hmm." Joy wondered. She walked over and studied Nightflyer for a moment. Then she wound up and punched him in the face as hard as she could. The Nightwing went flying to the floor.

"*OW!!*" Nightflyer yelled, clutching his face.

"Hey it worked!" Joy exclaimed.

"JOY!!" he shouted at her. "WHAT THE HELL!"

"Oh, sure. We practically freeze off your tail and nothing, but she comes in and punches you and *now* you're awake." Winter commented.

"Maybe it'll work on Air too!" Joy suggested, running from the

room.

"Oh no." Nightflyer said worriedly, running after her.

"I have found a solution!" Joy announced, rushing into the cave.

"No." Nightflyer insisted, running in behind her.

"Geez, Nightflyer. What happened to your face?" Seashell asked.

"Her stupid solution." he explained, pointing at Joy.

"Well, unless you've got a better idea, this is the only thing we've got." she countered. Nightflyer thought for a moment.

"Okay, I've got one thing that might work." he admitted. He walked over to Air and whispered into her ear so that the other's couldn't hear.

"If you don't want them to hear about last night, I suggest you start moving again." he muttered. Air jumped up, her face pink.

"What the hell did you say?" Joy demanded.

"Nothing!" they both shouted at the same time.

A/N: A Small Jelp Moment

A/N: I have nowhere to put this into the story but I love it to death so Imma put it here anyway and you all can smile and laugh at it. Sorry it's not a real update but I'm working on one now, this is just something to hopefully make you smile :)

Kelp was laughing. Joy stared at him in confusion. One moment they had been talking, and the next he just randomly burst out laughing for no reason. "Hey Kelp? What's so funny?" Joy questioned. He looked up at her, trying not to lose it. A smug grin covered his face. "Hey Joy?" he began. "You put the cute in execute."

I know its cheesy, but it's perfect.

I LOVE IT!!

Maybe I shouldn't ship my own characters.....

.

.

.

Nah.

AIRFLYER, PEARKEEPER, COALFLY, JELP, SQUADOBE FOR LIFE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Thoughts

It was hard to believe it, but the school year at JMA was almost over. In just a few short weeks, everyone would be heading back home. But Rainkeeper wasn't quite ready to leave yet. Especially since he wasn't sure if he'd be coming back next year. By the time next year rolled around, he'd be seven, the marking age of adulthood, but definitely not maturity. His parents had said that after they turned seven, it was up to them if they wanted to go back to JMA, and Rainkeeper wasn't sure that he wanted to. Sure, he loved the school, and he practically drooled just thinking of the Art cave, but he didn't really have any friends here besides Air and maybe Turtle. He missed Pear, and he was worried about her. No matter how many theories he thought of, or how many questions he asked, he still didn't know who was hurting her. It scared him in a way. The thought of someone hurting a dragon as sweet and innocent as Pear made him want to do things. Rainkeeper wasn't an angry person, he was known to stay calm and keep his head, but when he thought of someone hitting Pear, he almost felt....violent. He hated the feeling, but it kept running through his mind. He just kept thinking about it. *No,* he sighed as he realized that he was lying to himself. He wasn't thinking about that. He was thinking about Pear. She had this way of weaseling into his everyday thoughts. He knew why, but he feared actually saying it. Pear was his best friend. She wouldn't like him like that.....Would she? He had noticed last summer that she started looking at him a bit differently. She laughed more at his stupid jokes that he didn't even find funny. She stared at him more, blushed when he noticed. And he wasn't the only one. Tree-bud seemed to hate the way she looked at him. That sloth hated him, chucking apples at his head every day. But somehow, it was worth it.

Coal paced in an empty room, trying to work out the feelings he

should NOT have. He wanted to scream. His life was supposed to get easier after he'd left his brothers behind, and yet, it was only more complicated. Firefly was one of his best friends- one if his only friends if he was being honest. She was just so smart and funny and she made even the most boring things sound interesting and she was just so prett- He nearly slapped himself. No. This, right here, was why he was pacing. She'd never like him back. He knew that. And she shouldn't. He was a street-rat, the traitorous younger brother of the second most powerful gang in Sandwing territory. He was a homeless lowlife that happened to be taken under the queen's wing, nothing more. He didn't deserve the roof over his head, let alone someone as amazing as Firefly. She was the smart daughter of one of the Dragonets of Destiny, or the 'Saviors of Pyrrhia' as some dragons called them. She was smart and strong, not to mention pretty. She should be with a prince, not someone like him.....And yet, he dared to hope that she might disagree.

Joy stared out at the sky, pondering. She wasn't sure what to do. She liked Kelp, that she knew, but she knew that she'd never be allowed to be with him. He knew it to, and yet they'd both just chosen to ignore it. But this wasn't something that could be ignored forever. That was killing her. She never knew when her last day with Kelp would be. She thought that she should push him away, but the world would get darker if she did. *Kelp*.....she sighed. Even when she tried to described him, there was only one sentence that came to mind. One sentence that she wasn't allowed to say, no matter how it felt to be curled up next to him at night, no matter how sweet it was to kiss him, no matter how his shy smile made her feel. That one sentence was forbidden, no matter how desperately she wanted to say it, regardless of how he felt. That one, three word sentence. *I love you.*

A Project Of Realization

"Hey Air?" Rainkeeper asked. They were in the art cave, of course.

"Yea?" Air replied. She was looking at the different glazes the cave had, wondering if it was too late in the year to start a new project.

"I need your help with a project." he admitted. She eyed him suspiciously.

"What is this project?" she asked curiously. Rainkeeper blushed slightly.

"I want to make something for Pear..." he said awkwardly. "But all I know how to do is paint, so I thought that you could maybe show me how to work some other stuff?" Air grinned.

"I'd be happy to help!"

"Really?"

"Of course. It's not every day you get asked to help your friend make something for their girlfriend." she added slyly.

"She's NOT my girlfriend!" Rainkeeper exclaimed.

"Mhm. You just keep telling yourself that." she replied.

"She's not!" he repeated, his face flushed with embarrassment.

"Yet."

Nightflyer walked calmly down the hallway, until the familiar pain of an incoming vision sliced through his head. He groaned and leaned against the wall as images appeared in his head.

It was her again, the small Nightwing dragonet with the brown eyes. She was running again, but this time, she seemed happy. She shrieked and laughed as she ran, occasionally glancing over her shoulder at the dragon chasing her. She ran through a field of tall grass. It was so tall it nearly buried the little dragonet. She was a tiny thing.

Nightflyer frowned. This was the happiest he'd ever seen the dragonet. Normally she was terrified, her brown eyes wide with tears, or she was unconscious. But this appeared to be a happy vision of her. *But who is she?* he wondered. *And is this vision before or after the others?*

A cave home appeared, as if it was tucked into the bottom of a mountain. The girl ran towards the entrance just as someone appeared. It was the Skywing dragonet, the one with smoky scales. But he looked slightly younger in this vision, and less hardened. He grinned as the girl shrieked again and ran around him.

"Embie! Save me!" she squealed, laughing as she looped back towards the field. As they rounded the Skywing, Nightflyer finally got to look at who was chasing the Nightwing. He nearly dropped dead at the shock. The dragon chasing her was a Nightwing. He was young, but old enough to be the dragonet's father. He was smiling, a thin scar running on the side of his face, from his temple to the edge of his jaw.

"I'm gonna get you!" he cried, finally catching up to the dragonet. He scooped her up in his arms and she shrieked again. He tickled her slightly and she burst into giggles.

"Daddy! Put me down!" she laughed.

"Alright," he agreed, setting her down. But then, out of nowhere, the skywing dragonet tackled him and they both fell to the ground. The little girl jumped on them both, laughing.

"Get him!" the Skywing cried.

And then it ended as the three of them laughed in the grass. Nightflyer's mind was racing. He already knew the truth, but he still

had to check. He bolted to a mirror and turned his head sightly, his heart pounding. There was a thin scar on the side of his face, left from their fight with Chameleon last year. The scar went from his temple to the edge of his jaw, just like the adult dragon in his vision.

Across the school, Joy stopped walking as a shout echoed through the school.

"Did you hear something?" she asked. Kelp frowned.

"Nope."

"Huh." she replied, a confused look on her face. "I swore I just heard somebody scream."

Rainkeeper studied the small pendant he had made. It wasn't perfect, but it was exactly the way he wanted it. Air handed him a small tool.

"What's this?" he questioned.

"It's a pick. You use it to make small details, or you could use it to engrave something." she explained. "If you wanted to write anything on it." Rainkeeper thought for a moment.

"Okay, I'll right something. But NO JUDGING!" he ordered.

"Alright." Air agreed. Rainkeeper eyed her skeptically.

"And by that, I mean No snorting, no laughing, no snide remarks, no complaining that it's cheesy and suggesting something better, no comments, no sarcasm, no looks that scream 'are you SURE?', no mocking my handwriting, no telling my I spelt something wrong, or that I should word it differently, no nagging me, no pestering, no balancing fruits on your head behind me until they fall and ruin everything, no *interfering at all.*" he recited. Air stared. "Sorry, I live with Joy. You have to specify otherwise she will find every loophole that exists." he added.

"Okay then." she commented. With a sigh, Rainkeeper got to work.

"But you never said I couldn't go back and change it later." she added. Rainkeeper chucked the pick across the room with a scream.

Another End To Another Year

The last day of JMA had finally arrived and as old and new friends waved goodbye, our familiar group sat in their usual place, on a ledge outside the mountain.

"You all better visit more this summer," Joy threatened playfully. She poked at Winter. "That means you Frosty."

"Ah, yes. Because spending more time in my least favorite place in the world is exactly what I want to do this summer." he countered.

"Aw, come on Winter!" Air pleaded.

"Just one little visit?" Qibli asked.

"Please?" Moon begged. "For us?" Winter glared at them.

"One visit." he agreed. They cheered. "But then I'm not going back to the Rainforest until Joy and Kelp's wedding." he added, causing the dragons in questions to go pink as the others laughed.

Firefly hugged Squelch and Coal tight, not wanted the to leave.

"Firefly, we do have to breathe at some point." Coal commented.

"Sorry!" she exclaimed, releasing them. The boys fake gasped and laughed. "You two BETTER write me this summer." she ordered.

"And if we don't don't?" Squelch asked.

"Then on the first day of school I'm giving you each a list of scrolls and I won't talk to you until you have read them all." she threatened. They looked momentarily terrified.

"Ow." Coal began. "For a dragon with fire, you're cold."

"Then it's a good thing you're nearby to warm me up, Mr. Radiating Heat Scales." she retorted.

Rainkeeper stood at the school's entrance, studying his mural from last year with a faint smile on his face. He had added more to it last week, but he didn't think anyone had noticed. He traced one of the pictures with his talon, his thoughts spinning with whether or not to come back to school next year. Pear needed him in the Rainforest, but Joy might need him at school, in case Pineapple ever came back. He looked out at the ledge, where Joy was laughing with her friends, one of Kelp's wings wrapped around her. She had dragons here that would protect her, that he knew. But he still wasn't sure. Should he go back to school?

A While Later....

They were back home, safe in the rainforest. But not particularly happy. Nightflyer moped at first, missing Air, but he was slowly going back to normal, normal now including writing daily letters. On the day they came back, Rainkeeper bolted into the forest the first chance he got, searching for Pear.

Pear sighed. It was lonely being up in the trees by herself. It was strange; she had never minded being alone before she met Rainkeeper, in fact, she preferred solitude. No one could hit her if she was alone. But now, whenever Rainy wasn't around, it was.....quiet. She knew why she missed the prince so much, but she didn't want to admit it out loud. Suddenly, Tree-bud jumped up and when chasing through the trees, running to something.

"Tree-bud!" Pear cried, rushing after her sloth. Tree-Bud was a very demanding sloth, but he was nice enough. Pear had never taken him to her house, for fear that her father might kill the creature if he wasn't in a good mood. Or if he'd had too much Cactus cider, which was usually the case when he got angry. Pear shook herself at the thought. But things were a little better now. Usually, Pear's dad was furious when she wasn't home, when he couldn't hit her whenever he wanted. But now, he got mad when she was there, demanding that she get out, that she was a disgrace and a waste of

energy. He didn't want her in the house at all, which suited Pear just fine. She didn't get hit if she didn't go back to that house. It wasn't her home anyway. Her home was a memory, rather than a place. A memory of sitting on a tree branch, laughing for the first time in her life, with the only dragon that had ever actually cared.

Rainkeeper was calmly walking through the forest when Tree-Bud let out a shriek and jumped on his face. He let out a yelp.

"Tree-bud!" he yelled, knowing that if the sloth was here, Pear couldn't be that far behind.

"RAINY!!!!" a voice above him shouted. A moment later, a blinding yellow Rainwing barreled into him. "YOU'RE BACK!" she cried. He hugged her tight.

"Hey Pear!" he greeted her. She pulled away and grinned at him. Rainkeeper smiled back. This was the happiest he'd ever seen her, and the healthiest. There wasn't a single scratch on her, just the usual old scars. "You look great," he commented. Realizing what he said, he blushed slightly, but she didn't seem to notice. "Uh," he stammered. "I got something for you."

"Really?" Pear said in surprise. "What is it?" He held out a small pouch.

"Open it," he urged, a hopeful grin spreading across his face. Pear opened it and pulled out the object inside. It was a necklace, with a heart-shaped pendant. The heart looked glass-like, carved to look as if it were made of scales. It was a light pink color, but it looked like a sunset when held up to the light. There was something engraved on the back of it.

"Rainy, it's beautiful." she breathed. He smiled.

"I hoped you would like it." he admitted. "I made it. Well, I had some help, but still." She smiled and turned it over to get a closer look at the words.

"What's this say?" she questioned, knowing she'd never be able to read it. Rainkeeper flashed pink as he blushed.

"It, um...." he trailed off. "It says, 'I figured I'd give you a heart since you already stole mine.'" he said in a rush. He looked away in embarrassment. Pear grinned at him and hugged him.

"Thank you." she replied. "Help me put it on?"

"Of course," he agreed, helping her put the necklace on.

Problems

"NIGHTFLYER!!!!!!!!!!!!!!" Joy yelled, grabbing the Nightwing. "You gotta help me!"

"Okay! Calm down. What's wrong?" Nightflyer questioned. A horrified look crossed over the princess's face.

"*He found out where I live*." she said in a revolted voice.

"Who?" Nightflyer asked in confusion.

"The putrid dragon." she explained.

"Macaw?" Nightflyer suggested. Joy shuddered.

"Don't say his name." she begged.

"What's so bad about that?" Nightflyer asked.

"Everything." she declared. "I hate that piece of filth. He flirts with me, tries to get near me, and stares WAY too long in places he shouldn't."

"Well, have you punched him yet?" he offered.

"Repeatedly." she replied. "Help."

Earlier.....

Joy was outside the hut she lived in, telling Deathbringer a story about school, when an obnoxious voice rang out.

"Lovely Joy! How wonderful to see you again!" Macaw cried. Joy eloquently closed her eyes. Deathbringer bit back a laugh. Her expression matched Glory's irritated face perfectly. That face made

it looks as if even the sound of this dragon's voice was enough to make her jump off a cliff with her wings bound. It was like an annoying itch that wouldn't go away in a place you couldn't reach.

"So, is he a big ugly walrus?" Deathbringer questioned.

"You have no idea." Joy said in a strained voice. She slowly opened her eyes as Macaw came closer.

"Hello," he greeted them.

"Hello, who are you?" Deathbringer demanded, trying not to put too much threatening into his voice. Macaw grinned slyly.

"Why, don't you recognize me? I'm your future son-in-law." he explained.

Glory stepped out of a rainforest hut with a sigh and glanced at her home. She froze at the sight. A small, puke green dragonet was standing outside, facing Deathbringer and Joy. Joy's face held so much disgust and horror, that there were not words to describe it. Deathbringer was staring blankly, but to someone that knew him, he looked more murderous than Glory had ever seen him. She quickly walked over to make sure no one got hurt soon.

"Hello there," Glory greeted the dragonet. She entwined her tail with Deathbringer's, hoping to calm him down slightly. The dragonet bowed slightly.

"Your Majesty." he replied.

"Are you a friend of Joy's?" she asked. Joy recoiled.

"GREAT MOONS NO!" she retorted.

"Something like that." he insisted with a grin. He eyed Joy in a way that made Glory want to shove him off the platform.

"Well, I need to speak with these two about something, so maybe you could come back later?" Glory suggested.

"Of course," he agreed. He turned his attention to Joy. "I'll see you

later." he added in a sultry way. She only looked more revolted.

As soon as he was gone, Glory and Deathbringer's head whipped around to stare at Joy.

"Who the heck is that?" Glory demanded. Joy gagged.

"I think I need to go puke now." she remarked. "*That,* was Macaw. The most revolting, putrid, disgusting, sick dragon in the world. He has a thing for me, and I can't stand him. He's been flirting with me the. Entire. Year." Deathbringer growled.

"Can I kill him?" he snarled.

"Please do!" Joy begged.

"No." Glory confirmed. "I get that he's annoying, and the way he was looking at you even made *me* uneasy, but we can't harm him for it."

"What if he....'accidentally' died?" Deathbringer questioned, the murderous look still in his eyes.

"No, Deathbringer." Glory repeated.

"But-"

"NO." "Oh come on!" Deathbringer yelled. Joy sighed.

"Surely there's some way I can get rid of him." she thought out loud.

"Yea. It's called, we FREAKING MURDER HIM!" Deathbringer suggested. Glory shook her head with a smile.

"Didn't you tell me that you weren't going to be an overprotective father?" she asked.

"I'm not." he retorted. "Overprotective me would've killed him the minute I heard 'lovely Joy'"

"I. HATE. The word lovely." Joy announced.

As they continued to talk, another Rainwing landed on the platform, a scared look on his face.

"Your Majesty!" he exclaimed, his scales green with fear.

"What is it?" Glory asked, molding back into her Queen mode. The dragon spoke with wide eyes.

"One of the patrols, we- we spotted Pineapple in the forest."

The Job

Nightflyer frowned as he entered a rainforest hut. He had been given a letter by a guard, saying that he was to formally meet with Princess Joy to discuss something important. The very idea make him raise his eyebrows. Joy never met with him 'formally'. She never did anything regally at all. He was one of her best friends. Why the heck would she need to 'properly summon' him. And it only got weirder. He stepped into the hut to see Joy draped on a chair, almost throne-like. She snapped up as he entered. Guards from around the room eyed him carefully.

"Ah, Nightflyer. Good to see you." Joy addressed him, a regal look on her face. Nightflyer stopped dead in his tracks. Wow. Joy was a party person, someone who spoke loudly, and generally did whatever she wanted just for the fun of it. But this was not the Joy Nightflyer knew. This dragon, looked like the future Queen. She sat up straight, her talons clasped. She eyed him with a look of importance, as if he was valuable to her. She looked completely at ease in a throne, but also had her guard up and marked every movement in the room, regardless of the guards protecting her. This was a dragon that everyone would follow, and the second-long change from rambunctious to royalty left you speechless.

"Um, I got a summoning letter?" he began, confused as to why he was even here.

"Yes. I have a job for you." Joy explained. She glanced around the room. "Might I have a private word?" she questioned. With a flick of her tail, the guards filed out of the room. Joy got off the throne and walked to him, the way she walked alone screamed 'this dragon is important, bow down'.

"A job." Nightflyer repeated. "Doing what?" Joy sighed.

"A few days ago, Pineapple was spotted in the forest. Mother is going slightly crazy because of it, due to Pineapple's record in the

village, and the incident we had last year with her at school. So, she is putting guards on me for my protection until Pineapple can be captured. However, knowing me, I rebelled, not wanting some random dragon to follow me around 24/7. So, she agreed to let me choose my bodyguard. And I have chosen you." she elaborated. Nightflyer's eyes widened.

"Me?" he asked. "Why?" He was no bodyguard. He barely knew how to fight, let alone how to protect Joy, the only princess and lone heir to the kingdom. Why the hell would she choose him?

"You are one of my best friends Nightflyer. I trust you." she countered. "I know that you'll still let me live my normal life while you protect me. Mother has already agreed to it. You have a bit of a record for saving dragons after all."

"I do? When did I ever save someone?" he questioned. Joy rolled her eyes, letting a bit of herself show.

"Let's see. JMA, first year. You attacked Icicle to save your father, you attacked Chameleon to save Air. You fought Skywing guards along with the rest of us to help free Peril and Air. Last year, you may not have fought with Pineapple, but you still helped Seashell. Plus, there was that time when we were little that you dragged a random dragon away just before a tree was about to fall on him. You constantly made sure we were all okay. That's bodyguard material right there." she said, listing examples. "It's only a temporary job anyway. If you accept, that is."

Nightflyer thought for a moment.

"Alright." he agreed. "I'll do it."

The Message

Rainkeeper jumped to the ground, a smile on his face. Laughter sounded in the trees as Pear followed him. Tree-Bud sat on a branch, glaring at the pair while he ate an apple, rather than throwing it at them. Rainkeeper wasn't sure why he was laughing so much, but he really didn't care.

"Race you Rainy!" Pear yelled, running to the next tree. He chased after her, and she shrieked, the heart necklace swinging thumping against her chest as she ran. They raced up to the top of the tree, then back down. Only, this time, when Rainkeeper landed on the ground, there was someone waiting for him.

"Hello again," a slithery voice hissed. The grin faded from his face as Pineapple stared at him. Pear was right next to Rainkeeper, having the sense to stay in camouflage.

"What do you want Pineapple?" he said coldly. Pineapple examined her sharp talons, as if she was uninterested.

"I need you to deliver a message for me." she explained.

"And why would I do anything for you?" Rainkeeper growled. She glared at him.

"Because if you don't," she replied, reaching out and grabbing Pear. Pear shrieked and jumped out of camouflage, her scales green with fear. "She dies."

Rainkeeper stared, willing this to be a dream. Pear shut her eyes, shaking slightly as one of Pineapple's talons rested on her throat.

"I would take care of the message myself, but there's the issue that I'll be arrested on sight." Pineapple explained. Rainkeeper stood frozen, his eyes shifting from Pear to Pineapple, then lingering again on Pear. "Come on Rainkeeper, you know you're going to

agree. You care too much about this pathetic dragon to say no." Pineapple teased.

"She is *not* pathetic." Rainkeeper snapped. Pineapple's raised her eyebrows in surprise. She had never heard her cousin sound this angry before. He was such a calm and innocent dragon, it was one of the reasons why she didn't hate him. But now, he could've wiped out an army of Icewings with his glare.

"If you insist," she agreed. "Your decision?" He glanced back at Pear again, who was now staring back at him in fear.

"I'll deliver your message. Now let her go." Rainkeeper demanded.

"Ah, ah ah, she's your insurance. Deliver the message first, then come back and I'll let her go." Pineapple offered. Rainkeeper's eyes narrowed.

"How do I know you won't hurt her?" he questioned.

"Oh come on Rainkeeper, you know I'm a dragon of my word." she retorted. "Now deliver my message."

A Few Minutes Later....

Rainkeeper burst into his home, his eyes searching. Glory and Deathbringer glanced up and froze. There was pure terror written on his face.

"Rainkeeper? What's wrong?" Glory asked gently.

"Where's Joy?" he demanded, his eyes wild.

"In her room." Deathbringer supplied.

"What happened?" Rainkeeper ignored them, running towards Joy's room. He opened the door to see Joy and Nightflyer playing a board game. Nightflyer glanced up and jumped to his feet, pretending to be a silent bodyguard that would never even consider playing a board game with a royal princess he was supposed to be protecting. Joy also leapt to her feet, staring at her brother.

"Rainkeeper? What happened?" she asked. He could barely make out the words. Deathbringer and Glory stood behind him, nervous about what they were about to hear.

"It's Pineapple," he announced. "She's challenged you to a duel."

Later....

"She *can't* do this, there's got to be some law or *something* that stops it!" Glory exclaimed. Grandeur shook her head.

"I'm sorry Glory, but there isn't. There's no law that prevents an heir challenge from happening." she confirmed.

"I don't even understand this. What has Pineapple challenged her to?" Deahbringer asked.

"Pineapple has called upon the heir challenge." Granduer explained. "It's like the Queen's challenge, but different. In it, all of the Queen's potential heirs fight. The last one left alive gets to be the next Queen. So, Pineapple and Joy are going to have to fight to the death, and the winner gets to be our next Queen." Glory slumped into a chair, burying her face in her talons.

"There's got to be some other way," she pleaded.

"I'm afraid there's not. Joy has to go through with the fight." Grandeur admitted. Deathringer closed his eyes.

"And if she loses?" he asked softly.

"I think you already know the answer to that." Glory let out a sob. It was unbelievable. They were basically sending their only daughter, their youngest child, to her death. It was too much to bear. "I'll go tell Joy." Grandeur offered, leaving them alone.

Deathbringer slid a chair next to Glory and sat down, pulling her close. They stayed huddled like that, each of them lost in their own thoughts.

"I guess there's only one thing we can do," Deathbringer said finally.

"And what's that?" Glory asked weakly, leaning closer to him.

"We have to make sure she doesn't lose." Deathbringer explained. "We have to train her."

Oh No.

In all different parts of Pyrrhia, letters were received.

On the border of Skywing-Mudwing territory, a hybrid opened a letter.

In the Sandwing Stronghold, Queen Thorn's left-hand man, unfolded a letter.

On an island in the Bay of a Thousand Scales, twins read the note together.

In a cave on the border of the Icewing Kingdom, an exiled prince gasped.

And seven dragonets feared for their friend.

Rainkeeper walked through the forest. He was pacing, but kept forgetting to turn around. His eyebrows were furrowed in thought. Joy had agreed to the challenge. There was no turning back now. They would fight, and the loser may die. He could lose his little sister in this fight, his sister. The one he had sworn to protect no matter what. And he wasn't allowed to do anything to help her in the battle. Joy's lack of worry concerned him. She should be terrified, not carefree like always. This was serious. But, then again, Rainkeeper wasn't sure that serious was an emotion Joy could feel.

He ended up at his destination, even though he hadn't had one. As he watched, Pineapple did pull-ups on a tree branch.

"Cousin." she greeted him with a nod.

"Pineapple." he said, his voice stone-like. There was a pause. "Why are you doing this?" he questioned. She glanced at him.

"Because I want to be queen." she explained. "I've always wanted it,

ever since I was small. And then, when I got my chance, your mother was too cowardly to fight me, so I lost. That left me with one other option. If I'm the only heir, I get to be queen one day. That meant your sister had to go. But you and those stupid dragonets, and your father keep ruining my plan. Until now. Now everything is falling into place. We fight, she dies, I win the throne from Glory, and then an entire tribe is under my command." Rainkeeper wanted to scream. He wanted to lash out and kill her, end everything right now. But he knew better. The more he knew about what Pineapple wanted, the more he could use against her.

"And what happens then?" he asked. "If your plan succeeds." Pineapple smirked.

"Then the Rainwings become my servants, and my army. The Nightwings will have a new queen, and I'll run them out of my territory. Then, I make a selection." she replied.

"What kind of selection?" "There are certain dragon that I no longer want to exist." she announced.

"Your father will be the first to go, seeing as I'll have killed Glory by then. Then my parents, the weaklings. Then those ridiculous dragonets that your sister cared about so much, especially that Seawing. Then I'll have to see. Maybe the rest of the Dragonets of Destiny, maybe Queen Thorn, seeing as she'll be after me. Perhaps I'll kill Queen Ruby's dragonet for fun. We'll have to see." Rainkeeper fumed.

"That's not going to happen." he growled. "Never."

"I don't think you have noticed one little detail," Pineapple insisted. "I'm going to let you live."

"Why?" he demanded.

"Because I don't hate you. You were right when you said you were familiar with my weakness, and you're the only dragon that knows it. You're intelligent enough to be useful to me." she explained.

"If it makes you feel any better, I'll spare that idiotic dragon you're

obsessed with." Rainkeeper flashed red, fury showing in his face.

"You are not winning this fight." he declared. "Not if I can help it."

Joy was shocked. She couldn't believe they'd actually came. Air, Seashell, Kelp, Qibli, Winter, and Moon and Nightflyer of course, were all going to be there for the fight. Sure, they looked absolutely terrified for her, especially Kelp, but she didn't mind. The fact that they were here just made her more confident. She was slightly worried about Kelp though. The Seawing had this permanent look on his face that made you wonder if he was going to puke or faint first.

"So, we have a few days before the fight, "Joy began. "What do you want to do?"

"Oh no no no. We are not here for a social visit, Joy. We are here to best prepare you for war." Air replied.

"We're going to train you." Seashell explained.

"Pineapple might be familiar with your style, so we're going to teach you some moves from our tribes to help you outsmart her." Qibli suggested.

"Really? All of you?" Joy said in surprise.

"Well, nearly all." Moon corrected. "Kelp and I won't be since Nightflyer's better trained than me, and we all agree that Kelp will be nothing more than a distraction."

"Hey! He is not a distraction!" Joy protested. "He just happens to be very aesthetically pleasing." Kelp face-taloned.

"Let's get started, shall we?" Winter asked. "I'll be training you first."

The Heir's Challenge

The challenge was to be held in a reasonable-sized arena-like area. There were platforms all around for spectators to watch, and a floor below made of vines for the event. Grandeur said they used to use this stadium for Queen's challenges, but it had fallen into disarray over the years, until recently. Up where dragons watched, there was a slightly raised dais, for the royal family. Joy was down below there, preparing herself for the fight. Nightflyer, Air, Kelp, Seashell, Moon, Qibli, and Winter were spread out in the viewing area, alone with at least half the rainforest tribes. Everyone was watching nervously. Today was sure to be a defining moment in the history of the rainforest. Today determined who their next queen would be. The rules were simple. A clean, fist to fist fight between the competitors. No venom allowed, or fire in Joy's case. One tiny bit had been changed though. This wasn't going to be a fight to the death. The loser was whoever lost consciousness first. Pineapple had laughed when she'd been told. That wasn't going to happen. She was going to kill Joy in this arena, with all her family watching. It would be perfect.

Glory, Deathbringer, and Rainkeeper waited anxiously with Joy. It occurred to them that this may be the last time they saw her alive. The thought only made them hug her tighter. Glory tried to fight off her tears as she hugged her daughter. Joy caught on.

"Hey, don't worry Mother. I'll be fine." Joy insisted, trying to smile. But it was difficult when you were watching your mother cry. Rainkeeper hugged her next as Deathbringer wrapped a wing around Glory.

"Be careful," Rainkeeper begged, trying to keep his own emotions in check.

"I will." she promised. A loud bird call sounded.

"That's our cue." Deathbringer said weakly. Joy smiled at them.

"It'll be okay." she promised.

"Today," Handsome announced to the crowd as Glory stepped on the highest point of the dais, Deathbringer and Rainkeeper on either side of her.

"Rainy!" a voice hissed as Handsome spoke. Pear appeared next to Rainkeeper and smiled gently at him. He nodded weakly, unable to speak. His talons gripped the wooden railing surround the arena, his eyes staring at Pineapple as she paced on the floor. Pear noted his nervousness and quietly set one of her talons on top of his. There were cheers as Joy stepped out into the arena. Kelp also stood with his talons gripped, staring nervously at Joy. Qibli and Seashell were on either side of him, to 'restrain him if necessary' as Seashell put it. Nightflyer, Air, and Winter were next to them, intent on restraining Air as well. In true arena style, the fight began.

"Claws up! Teeth ready! Fight!" Handsome announced.

Everyone froze as it began. Joy and Pineapple circled each other in the arena, sizing their opponent. They stopped walking after a bit, staring each other down. Joy dropped into a fighting stance and flicked a talon, as if to silently say, *Come at me, if you dare.* Pineapple smirked and launched herself at Joy, truly beginning the fight. The crowd roared to life as the battle began. Pineapple came out strong, throwing punches that Joy easily dodged. They slowly moved down the arena, Joy slapping her fists away. Then she grabbed Pineapple's talons, dropped down and kicked out Pineapples feet from under her. She hit the ground hard as cheers sounded from the crowd. Joy backed up a step as Pineapple got back to her feet.

"Clearly I have underestimated you." she commented. "Looks like this may be a decent fight after all." Joy swung a side kick to Pineapple's ribs, but she caught her foot and Pineapple twisted her leg around, throwing Joy to the ground. Pineapple was there before Joy could pick herself up, securing the hybrid in a headlock. Glory quickly shut her eyes, fearing. Joy was on her knees, Pineapple on her feet. Joy grabbed at the arm choking her and flipped Pineapple over, throwing her out of the headlock.

More punches and kicks resumed, each of them getting in hits. Rainkeeper's grip tightened around Pear's talon every time Joy was hit. One good punch sent her spinning, Joy's vision doubling and blurring as she stumbled. *Don't pass out, don't pass out,* she yelled at herself. She spun around to see Pineapple coming at her and she managed to dodge and get a clear hit at Pineapple's ribs. The fight dragged on, a punch here, a kick there, a failed arm-bar, an attempted headlock. Joy's energy was slowly draining and she was slowing down. Pineapple was playing with her.

"Oh no." Qibli whispered, realizing Pineapple's method.

"What?" Kelp asked worriedly.

"She's messing with Joy, teasing her with punches and dodges so that Joy loses energy and then when Joy is to tired to go on, Pineapple will strike out and win." he explained. They all froze, praying this wouldn't end like that.

"Maybe if she actually used one of my strategies, she might have a bit more luck." Winter commented.

"Winter, please shut up." Air snapped. Down in the arena, Pineapple and Joy circled each other again. Joy was panting, keeping her fists up and ready. She glanced around at the spectators, her eyes lingering on her family's worried faces, on Kelp's terrified expression, on her friends watching in fear. She stopped momentarily at them, remembering the strategies she'd been taught. She looked back at Pineapple, studying her surroundings. There was one strategy from Winter....it could work. If she did it right, this could end the fight right here. She could win.

With newly found energy, Joy lashed out, punching at Pineapple. She hit back and Joy didn't even try to maintain her ground. She let Pineapple slowly walk her into a corner, blocking punches. Pineapple grinned. She had her now. Joy would be defenseless while trapped in a corner.

"Oh no. No no no no no." Deathbringer pleaded, watching the fight. "No Joy, don't let her get you in a corner. Nonono. I can't watch this." he exclaimed, closing his eyes. "Tell me when it's over." Joy's

heels were touching the back wall of the arena now. Kelp was leaning over the railing as Seashell and Qibli attempted to hold him back. Joy glanced around. She was backed up against the middle of the back wall, still dodging punches. The vine walls of the arena were slanted. They were steep, but it seemed possible to do what she needed.

Joy ducked under Pineapple's arm and ran for the side wall. When she was close enough, she spread her wings, turned around while walking on the side of the wall, kicked off the corner, and slammed her fist into Pineapple's face.

The Aftermath

Pineapple crumpled to the ground. Joy went flying to the ground and she somersaulted to prevent herself from landing on her face. She got to her feet and stared. Pineapple didn't move. There was a pause as everyone in the audience froze, the only sound being Joy's panted breathing. She almost didn't believe it. Pineapple was out cold. She had won. The silence ended and cheers shot out from the crowd, chanting her name and yelling. Glory started breathing again.

"She won," she whispered. Glory grabbed Deathbringer by the arm and jumped. "SHE WON!" Deathbringer opened his eyes in disbelief. He let out a laugh, hysterical with relief. Rainkeeper stared, his jaw dropped, as if he couldn't comprehend what he was seeing. Pear jumped and cheered next to him. She grabbed him by the shoulders and shook him.

"SHE WON!" Pear yelled, snapping Rainkeeper out of his trance. He laughed, not really understanding what he was doing. Spontaneously, he grabbed Pear and kissed her, stopping her cheering. When they broke apart, Rainkeeper let out a shout and spun around, cheering. Pear stood frozen. Then Rainkeeper stopped, and his eyes widened, realizing what he had just done. He glanced nervously at Pear. She grinned and pulled him in for another kiss.

Joy stared up at the cheering crowd, a smile on her face. Guards came and took Pineapple's unconscious form away.

"JOY!" a voice yelled from the audience. Kelp leapt down from the railing and barreled into her, other dragons following him. "You did it!" he cried, jumping around her. Joy smiled weakly, feeling a bit dizzy. Deathbringer appeared next to her and wrapped her in a hug, laughing. Rainkeeper was there too, grinning sheepishly at Pear. Her friends yelled as the audience packed the arena, cheering and laughing. Joy glanced around, her dizziness growing as the many faces swam in her head. The arena began to spin around her.

"Joy?" Kelp asked, his voice sounding concerned. She barely heard him, his form duplicating as she watched. "Are you alright?" She could hardly understand the words.

"I'm fine." Joy declared. And then she collapsed to the ground.

"JOY!"

Later....

Joy woke up in the healer's hut.

"She's awake!" a voice announced.

"Oh thank the moons." someone else murmured. Joy tried to move with a groan. Everything hurt. But at least she could see straight again.

"Hey there, champ." Deathbringer greeted her with a grin. "How are you feeling?"

"Sore," Joy explained, her voice hoarse.

"Well, that's expected." Glory insisted, running her talons over Joy's head.

"What happened?" Joy asked weakly.

"You just kinda...passed out." Deathbringer offered. "The healer's said that all the hits you took during the fight caught up with you and it was too much for you to handle."

"Everyone else is at the fiesta, if you're up for it." Glory commented. With a bit of difficulty, Joy sat up. She glanced down. There were bandages on her, covering the bleeding scratches from Pineapple's sharp claws. Her head hurt, but she wasn't going to let stop her.

"Take it easy." Deathbringer advised, helping her up. Joy nodded meekly as they walked to the door.

Kelp sighed with relief as Joy entered. As soon as she'd collapsed, Deathbringer, Glory, Rainkeeper, and the healers had whisked her

away and they hadn't let anyone in the hut. He'd been worried. He walked over as Joy sat down in a chair facing the dance floor, a weak smile on her face.

"Hi Joy," he greeted her, sitting down next to her. "How are you?"

"I feel like a boulder smashed itself on top of me, but, other than that, never better." she admitted. He grinned at her and she smiled back.

Seashell surveyed the celebration party. Queen Glory and Deathbringer were looked a thousand times more relieved then they had been earlier. Kelp and Joy were sitting, laughing about something. Moon was trading dances with both Qibli and Winter, trying to be fair as the boys glared at each other. Air and Nightflyer were also dancing, laughing. Rainkeeper and Pear were leaning against the wall, talking with shy smiles on their faces. Seashell couldn't help but feel a little lonely. All of her friends were happy and in love. Sure, they were only six, but Seashell wanted to find someone that could make her happy, the way her brother made Joy happy, or the way Nightflyer made Air feel. Or the way that Pear made Rainkeeper feel. It sounded like a nice feeling, but then again, she wouldn't know.

Rainkeeper couldn't have been happier. Joy had won, Pineapple was safely in prison, and there was Pear, of course. After Joy had been taken to the healer's hut, they had talked. Rainkeeper was surprised to hear that Pear felt the same way about him that he did about her, but delighted as well. But of course she had asked why.

"Why me?" she had questioned. "You're a prince, Rainkeeper. You have your pick of any dragon in this forest, and you chose me, an odd dragon with an abused past, that lives with a sloth that has anger management issues." If he was being honest, he had no idea why. Pear was his best friend, and she was perfect. She was a mystery to him and he loved it. Why wouldn't he want to be with her? She wanted to be with him too, but she was afraid. That he could see. Pear was afraid that her father wasn't done with her yet, that he would try something to hurt their relationship. But Rainkeeper wasn't afraid of that. If her father came back, he wouldn't dare touch her. Rainkeeper was positive of this. Pear was

his girl, and no one was ever going to harm her again.

Greetings And Meetings

A/N: Skipping again cause I don't know what else to write. Also, there's not very any parts left in this book! *single tear* Soon! Very soon! I shall complete this book, and then I shall write a sequel! Why? you may ask. Well, the sequel will be about Joy, Rainkeeper, and all that group, as adults, when they have their own families and their own dragonets. But before any of that happens, we've got at least one more year at JMA! :)

It was the beginning of another year at Jade Mountain Academy. Joy and her friends were in their usual place, talking among themselves. Firefly and Squelch ran around, searching for Coal, who was supposedly already here. Rainkeeper watched this and other greetings from the entrance. He grinned softly. He was glad that he'd chosen to come back for one last year at school. Pear seemed a bit disappointed, but he felt that it was important to come back. Something just told him he should be hear, but he wasn't sure why.

Squelch ran around the school, looking for Coal. He was too busy searching for the Sandwing that he failed to notice other dragons until it was too late. Squelch crashed into another dragonet, sending them both flying to the ground with shouts.

"I am so sorry," Squelch apologized as the other dragonet picked up a welcome scroll.

"It's alright." she insisted. Squelch stared at the dragonet. She was a Mudwing with chocolaty scales and honey brown eyes. She stared back, confused and intrigued by his odd blue eyes.

"I'm Squelch," he offered, holding out a talon.

"Adobe." she replied, shaking his talon.

"Is it your first year here?" he asked. Adobe nodded.

"I was supposed to go last year, but plans changed." she explained. "Is it your first year too?" He shook his head.

"No, it's my second." he admitted. They stood there awkwardly for a moment.

"Well, uh, nice meeting you, Squelch." she said with an uncertain smile. He grinned back.

"Yea, you too." he responded. They both wandered away, unsure of what had just happened.

Firefly circled back to the school's entrance and her eyes landed on a familiar scarred Sandwing.

"Coal!" she yelled, racing over to hug the Sandwing. Coal winced as she barreled into him, but hugged her back. She laughed with excitement and pulled away, her grin fading as she got a better look at him. He looked terrible. One of his eyes was black and swollen, his face, neck, and chest covered in scratches, some of them still bleeding. "Coal..." she whispered. "What happened?"

"It's nothing." he said quickly. Her talons traced one of the scratches on his face. "Really. It's fine." he added sharply, pulling away from her touch. He didn't want her to know, he didn't want her to worry. It was his fault anyways. He shouldn't have gone back to the Scorpion Den. He should never have gotten anywhere near there. He should've known they'd be on him in a second, now that they had Vulture's gang on their side. Fennec and Prickle were not wise dragons to betray. They'd torture you before you died, even if you were their own kid brother. It was only pure luck that got him out alive. Firefly looked concerned, but she could see that he didn't want to talk about it. And she wasn't the kind of dragon to force him.

Joy walked happily down the hallway, excited for another year. Sure, she had a record in the school for being one of the dragonets that disaster followed around like a loyal puppy, but she loved the adventure- as long as it didn't include Pineapple, imprisonment, or

Kelp getting hurt. But at least one of those was guaranteed with every adventure they went on. She was looking forward to this year, a smile on her face.....until a slimy voice sounded.

"Hello Joy." Macaw said with a wink. Joy narrowed her eyes, her guard way up. They were six now, nearly seven, nearly adults. That fact seemed to mean something to Macaw that made Joy more wary of him. He got closer when he flirted. He was more.....grabby. And now was no exception. He slid up next to her, a sultry look on his face. "Shall we forget the sarcastic comebacks and have some fun this year?" he questioned. A sarcastically sweet face masked Joy's true expression.

"Why, of course Macaw." she said innocently. "In fact, I even have a poem for you." Macaw grinned and Joy swore she heard his head growing larger.

"Do tell," he pleaded.

"Roses are red, Violets are blue, sugar is sweet, so are you!" she recited.

"Awwww," Macaw remarked. Joy's face suddenly contorted in horror.

"The roses are wilting, the violets are dead! The sugar bowl's empty, just like your head." she added, walking away from him.

Nightflyer walked down the hall, content with life. Everything was just the way it should be. There were no terrifying visions, Air and him were happy- he hadn't seen her take off that necklace yet-, his friends were normal, everything was great. Someone stepped out of a cave down the hall and paused at the sight of him.

"*Hello*!" she said enthusiastically, eyeing him.

"Hi." Nightflyer greeted her, still walking. She ran in front of him and shoved her arms out, stopping him. Her talons lingered far too long on him for his liking.

"I'm Faithbringer." she said in a seductive voice. He blinked. She was a Nightwing, around his age, and gorgeous to everyone that

saw her. But Nightflyer disagreed. He already thought she was ugly, inside and out.

"I'm Nightflyer." he replied, walking past her.

"Nightflyer," she called after him. "I'm not done with you and that hot bod yet!" He shuddered at the thought and began to look for Air. He sighed. Of course. *Of course*, when everything was going great, life had to throw a rock at him.

Animus Magic? Hmmmmm

Firefly was in the library, as usual, when Nightflyer walked in, looking extremely annoyed and slightly horrified. A beautiful Nightwing walked in behind him, giggling as she trailed after him.

He needs help, she thought to herself. *Time to go little-sister mode.* She got to her feet and quickly approached them.

"Nightflyer!" she called. The pretty Nightwing whirled around and glared at her.

"Oh, hi Firefly." he greeted her, his eyes silently reading *Oh thank the moons thank you thank you thank you.*

"Who's she?" the other nightwing snapped. Nightflyer rolled his eyes.

"She's my sister, and I'm sure she needs me for something extremely important. Right sis?" he pleaded.

"Actually, yes I do." she admitted. "So, I'm just gonna steal him away for a few minutes."

"But Nighty-" the dragon whined. Nightflyer strained a smile and quickly ushered Firefly away.

"Thank you." he breathed, sighing with relief.

"Let's start there, shall we? Who is that?" Firefly demanded.

"Faithbringer. She likes me. Can you get Coal or Qibli to stab me so I don't have to deal with her?" he asked.

"Does Air know about her?" Firefly questioned. His face fell.

"Shit."

"That's what I thought." she replied.

"Anyways!" Nightflyer said quickly, changing the subject. "Did you have a legitimate reason to talk to me?"

"Yes." she admitted, lowering her voice. "I want to tell Mother and Father. About you-know-what."

"Great!" he insisted. "That's good."

"But I don't want to do it alone."

"Firefly," he began. "You know I'll be right there beside you the whole time."

"Really?"

"Really. That's what big brothers are for, aren't they?" he promised. Firefly let out a breath she hadn't realized she'd been holding in. "When do you want to tell them?" he questioned.

"How about tonight?" she suggested. Nightflyer nodded in agreement.

That night....

It was late at night. The students of JMA had gone to bed not too long ago, but the teachers were still very well awake. Starflight and Fatespeaker were in the library. Fatespeaker was reshelving scrolls while Starflight worked at his desk, checking due dates and other things. That's where they were when Nightflyer and Firefly stepped into the room. Starflight glanced up at the sound of footsteps and paused at the sight of them. Firefly looked nervous, and maybe a bit scared. Nightflyer looked slightly concerned. Starflight set down his pen.

"Nightflyer." he greeted them. "Firefly." Fatespeaker looked up at his words.

"What are you two doing up?" she questioned, taking in their expressions. Now Firefly looked terrified. Nightflyer nudged her slightly.

"Firefly has something to tell you." he announced. Starflight got up and walked around his desk.

"What is it?" he asked, growing both curious and suspicious. Firefly swallowed. Maybe this wouldn't be so bad. Maybe it'd all be okay.

"I'm a...." she stammered. "I- uh, I'm an.." her voice grew quieter. "I'm an animus." she whispered, but in the silence her words were still heard clearly.

"What?" Fatespeaker said in disbelief. Starflight stood frozen in shock. Their daughter was an animus?

"Please tell me you haven't enchanted anything." Starflight begged. Firefly shook her head.

"Other than the animus test, I haven't done anything, I promise." she swore. Her parents glanced at each other, looking slightly relieved.

"Don't." Starflight said finally.

"What?" Firefly asked. She understood the dangers of this power. She knew the cost of using it. But shouldn't she do something? Wasn't she given this power for a reason? Shouldn't she try to do some good with it before never using it again? Maybe she could do what the Icewing animuses had done, just use their power once and then never again. Would that really be so bad?

"Firefly we can't have you losing your soul." Fatespeaker explained. "It's just safer if you don't use your power at all."

"But shouldn't I try to do some good with it?" she questioned. "I could help dragons and then never use it again, like the Icewings used to!"

"No Firefly." Starflight said firmly. "We shouldn't risk it." She knew they weren't going to budge. But neither would she. She could do something, make someone's life better. If she helped just one dragon, wouldn't that be worth the risk?

Her parents warned her, made her swear not to use her power. Firefly clasped her talons behind her back.

"I promise." she declared, no one noticing that her talons were crossed. No one wanted her to use this power, even for good. But she didn't care about that. She could help dragons with this magic, and she was going to. Whether her family liked it, or not.

Note To Self: Make Sure Faithbringer And Air are NEVER In The Same R-.....Oops.

Firefly stared at the scroll in front of her, so entranced by the story that she didn't even hear or see Coal. He slumped down next to her and looked over her shoulder, reading the title of the scroll.

"Whatcha readin?" he asked. Firefly jumped a mile and he laughed.

"Three moons Coal! Announce yourself with a cough or something!" she exclaimed, her heart pounding.

"Sorry," he replied. He coughed purposefully. "Better?" She shoved him playfully. "But what are you reading?" he persisted.

"It's called *Kana and the scales*." she explained. "It's amazing."

"What's it about?"

"Well, you could read it,"

"True," he admitted. "But then I wouldn't get to see your eyes light up as you read or be able to laugh at your ridiculous voices." He grinned at her. She smiled slyly.

"Well, I can't argue with that." she agreed. With that, she began to read him the scroll.

Elsewhere...

Air was walking down the hallway, minding her own business, when someone called out to her.

"*Hey!*" an angry voice yelled. She turned to see a shockingly

beautiful Nightwing coming right at her. And she looked pissed. "You're that hybrid that's always hanging out with Nightflyer, aren't you?" she demanded.

"Um, yes?" Air said in confusion. Who was this dragon? Suddenly the Nightwing slammed her into the wall.

"Well, listen here, *freak.* Nightflyer is *mine*, so. *Back*. Off." she ordered. Air wasn't sure why, but rage boiled up in her and she shoved the Nightwing away.

"No, *you* listen. I don't know *who* you think you are, but Nightflyer is not some object you can lay a claim on. And if he was, he'd belong to *me.* So you're the one who needs to 'back off'. And if you think you can just *waltz* in here and do whatever you want with him, then we're gonna have a problem. Got it?" she declared. The girl snorted.

"*Please.* Like you stand a chance. Why would he ever like you when he could have someone as perfect as me?" she retorted. Air growled lightly. She didn't even know this dragon's name, but she already hated her. Deeply.

"Oh, and, in case you were wondering," she smirked. "He agrees that I'm a *way* better kisser than you."

Air lunged at the girl, but strong arms let her back.

"Woah! Easy there, tiger! *Easy,*" Joy remarked, holding the two girls apart. She glanced between them for a moment before realization spread over her face. "Ah," Joy commented. "I see what this is about." A smug grin covered her face before it faded in a murderous look. "Air, let's take a walk, shall we?" she suggested, guiding the hybrid away. She shot a glare at the Nightwing as they left.

As they walked back to their sleeping cave, Air found herself calming down.

"Thank you," she said.

"No problem," Joy promised. "Just remember, There is no true love

without jealousy."

"Wow," Air said in surprise. "That is the most eloquent thing I have ever heard you say." Joy shrugged.

"I have my moments." she explained. "And plenty of advice when it comes to the third wheel in a relationship."

"Do tell," Air pleaded.

"Well, let's see," Joy began. "That Nightwing. She's a bitch, right?" Air nodded. "So, remember. Queens will forever stay badder than bitches." Air stared at her for a moment.

"Is this the kind of stuff that goes through your head when Macaw flirts with you?" she asked. Joy shuddered.

"Not really. It's mostly a lot of internal screaming. Because at first I cared, but then I was like, Nah, fuck you."

"Well, I know one thing for sure." Air admitted.

"What?"

"Nightflyer has some explaining to do."

Meanwhile...

"Kelp." a voice said sharply.

"Macaw." Kelp replied. They stared at each other for a moment, as if they were attempting to melt each other with just their eyes. Nightflyer watched on in interest.

"You know," Macaw began, in a more cheerful voice. "I am finally breaking Joy. Soon enough she'll fall head over heels for me and we'll leave you in the dirt." Kelp snorted.

"Please. You can't break her, Macaw," he promised. "You don't own that kind of power."

"Oh really? Tell me something Kelp. Why are you so obsessed with

her? I have a better chance than you do. Why are you even trying?" Macaw teased. Kelp glared at him, but still considered the question. He stared off for a minute. "I'm waiting," Macaw announced.

"Well- because-" Kelp sputtered. He sighed. "Telling someone why you're in love with somebody is like explaining what water tastes like. You can't."

Later...

Kelp and Nightflyer walked back to their sleeping cave.

"Hey Kelp?" Nightflyer asked, thinking back to an earlier conversation. "When you told Macaw that telling someone why you're in love with them is like explaining water's taste, did you mean it?"

"Of course." Kelp admitted.

"So, there's no way you can describe Joy?"

"I can describe her!" he retorted. "It's just- sometimes you can't explain what you see in a dragon; it's just the way they can take you to a place no one else can." Nightflyer nodded, a smile creeping onto his face. He understood that alright. It was like there was a whole other galaxy in Air's eyes alone.

"Describe her then." Nightflyer commanded. "Joy. I wanna hear what you say." Kelp paused for a moment, then grinned.

"She's beauty. She's grace. She'll punch you in the face." he offered. They burst out laughing.

"No! I'm serious!" Nightflyer tried again.

"Ummm." he began. "She's.....she's like a home and an adventure at the same time. She's so complicated. That's the way Joy is, sunshine mixed with a little bit of hurricane." he explained.

"Better." Nightflyer offered. "A bit more of that deep soul-fullness, and then you can say that to her face." Kelp looked terrified at the notion, causing them to laugh again.

"Nightflyer." a voice called from up the hall. They glanced up to see Air and Joy walking towards them.

"Hey Air." he greeted her, smiling. She glared at him.

"Don't you 'Hey Air' me." she snapped, radiating anger. Joy slid up next to the boys.

"She ran into some female Nightwing that made some very... intriguing claims." Joy offered to him before grabbing Kelp's talon and pulling him away from the fight that was bound to go down. Nightflyer paled. There was only one dragon that could've caused this.

"You've got some explaining to do." Air ordered, her arms crossed. Nightflyer looked at her sheepishly, silently cursing that Nightwing's name to the winds.

Faithbringer.

Fight!

Nightflyer sighed. He hated, absolutely *hated,* the hurt look on Air's face.

"Her name is Faithbringer." he began. "She's....She's basically my version of Macaw. Literally, she's the legit female, nightwing version of Macaw. She's annoying, obnoxious, and I can't stand her, and yet she keeps following me around." Air thought for a moment.

"Well, that doesn't make it okay that she slammed me against a wall and threatened me if I didn't stay away from you!" she replied.

"She did *what?*" Nightflyer yelled, growing furious. "Oh *no*. Flirting with me is one thing, but threatening you to get to me is *way* out of line! I outa-" his words were cut off as Air kissed him. He froze after she pulled away. "Well, okay then." he commented, a smug grin playing on his face. Air grinned.

"Joy gave me some tips on how to get rid of her, if you're interested." she remarked.

"Do tell,"

Later.....

It was only a few minutes until all the students of JMA had to be in their sleeping caves. Kelp turned down a hallway, only to spot Macaw leaning against the wall, looking extremely pleased with himself. At the other end of the hall, Rainkeeper neared, but at the sound of Kelp and Macaw's voices, he stayed put, listening to them.

"What are you so happy about?" Kelp questioned, not even caring enough to hear the answer.

"Oh, you know," Macaw smirked. "Just had the best night of my life." Kelp snorted.

"As if any girl would go near you with a ten foot pole." he commented.

"Funny you should say that, seeing as you know the girl." Macaw retorted. Kelp paused.

"Who?"

"Aw, come on. This is an easy one. A certain silver-eyed hybrid perhaps?" Macaw taunted. "Rumor has it I'm not even the first one. You're on that list too, aren't you? A bit of a slut, isn't she?"

Kelp stood frozen for a moment as Macaw smirked at him.

"You son of a bitch." Kelp announced, lunging at the Rainwing. He knew it wasn't true, but the accusation alone was enough to send Kelp over the edge. His fist slammed into the side of Macaw's head, sending him spinning to the ground. Macaw gasped as he got to his feet, pulling a blood-covered talon away from his face.

"You wanna fight me, seaweed? Let's go." he declared, barreling into Kelp. Rainkeeper had heard enough. He turned into the hallway and watched at Kelp pinned Macaw to the ground. Kelp glanced up and his eyes widened at the sight.

"Rainkeeper, you know I wouldn't-"

"I know," Rainkeeper cut him off, every inch of him seething with fury. "So let's just kick the crap out of him and be done with this, shall we?" Kelp snorted.

"Beat him up? Heck, he's lucky if he gets out of here alive."

Clay and Tsunami were walking down the hall when someone let out a shout. They rushed down the hall to see Rainkeeper, Kelp, and Macaw in the middle of a fight.

"Hey!" Clay yelled as they rushed over. "Break it up!" Tsunami grabbed ahold of her son and pulled him away. Clay yanked Rainkeeper out of the mix. The boys strained against their captors as Macaw got to his feet.

"See boys?" he snickered. "I always win." Rage fueled them. Rainkeeper growled and maneuvered his way out of Clay's grip, lunging at Macaw. Kelp lashed forward, unbalancing Tsunami enough that he could break free and he jumped at the Rainwing.

"How the hell are we supposed to stop them?" Tsunami asked. And for once, Clay had a great idea.

"I know." he said suddenly, darting down another hallway.

Like usual, Moon, Joy, and Air stayed awake for a little while, talking before they went to sleep. So, they were awake when Clay appeared in the doorway.

"Hi Dad," Air greeted him, unsure why he was there.

"Hi Air," he replied. "Joy, can I borrow you for a minute?"

"Sure?" Joy agreed, confused as to what was going on. Clay lead her to a hallway. Tsunami glanced at her, then at Clay.

"That's....actually a great idea." she admitted. Joy walked down the hall and her eyes landed on Rainkeeper, Macaw, and Kelp. She stormed up to them as they fought and crossed her arms.

"*What* is going on here?" she demanded. The boys froze in terror.

They glanced at her sheepishly from their frozen poses. Rainkeeper was on one end, his fist pulled back like he was preparing to punch, his other talon was wrapped around Macaw's neck. Macaw, in the middle, had his mouth open wide, like he was screaming. One of his talons was scrapping Kelp's sales, and the other was wrapped around Rainkeeper's neck. Kelp, on the other end, had one fist frozen millimeters away from Macaw's face, his other fist ready to claw; and he had the vulnerable spot of Macaw's tail clamped between his teeth.

"Get. Up." Joy ordered. Kelp spat out Macaw's tail as they all quickly jumped to their feet. Rainkeeper and Kelp stood up tall, their talons clasped behind their backs. They stared ahead, making sure to not make eye contact with Joy. Macaw, on the other hand, did none of these things. He slouched and smirked, as if he was

attempting to look cool. He stared directly at Joy.

"Good thing you showed up, or one of these dragons would be nothing but a-" he began. His words were cut off as Joy wrapped her talons around his neck and lifted him off the ground.

"You will speak when I want you to." she declared, dropping him. He fell to the floor with a thud.

Joy walked down the line, staring at Kelp and Rainkeeper. They didn't even blink. She stopped at Rainkeeper.

"Tell me what happened." she commanded. Rainkeeper relaxed and explained what Macaw had said and how they had reacted. When he finished speaking, he went back to the old pose. She went to Kelp next and Clay and Tsunami watched on in awe. "Do you agree with what he said?" Joy questioned.

"Yes Ma'am." he promised. Then it was Macaw's turn.

"Do you agree?" she asked again.

"Absolutely not! I did no such thing! These two are nothing but a bunch of filthy, no-good liars and if you knew any better you woul-" his words were cut off as Joy punched him in the face, dropping him like a hot pan. He didn't get back up.

"Thank you boys, that will be all." she finished. Rainkeeper and Kelp relaxed and bolted to their sleeping caves. Clay and Tsunami just stared at Joy in wonder. They turned to each other.

"Glory." Clay bet.

"Nah," Tsunami countered. "Deathbringer."

"Hey Joy?" Clay asked. "Where'd you learn to do that?"

"My mother, of course." Joy replied, walking back to her cave. Tsunami sighed as Clay yelled in victory.

"Ha! You have to correct all my test papers!" he shouted.

Scrolls

The Dragonets of Destiny frowned. Even though they all worked together, it wasn't very often they all met up. Usually it was for something VERY important, like when their dragonets got kidnapped by Queen Scarlet. They were *not* supposed to be held because Starflight had some great idea.

"What is this all about Starflight?" Tsunami questioned.

"Yes, do tell. Some of us have a rainforest to run." Glory commented.

"Alright," Starflight began, nearly bursting with excitement. "Picture this."

"In the library," the five of them said in unison. Starflight glared at them before continuing.

"What if we had a box-" Glory gasped.

"No way! What if we put a *box* in the library? Great moons this *was* a hundred percent worth my time to come here and discuss this drastically important issue!" she said sarcastically. Deathbringer was finding it harder and harder not to laugh.

"WHAT I WAS GOING TO SAY!" Starflight tried again. "Is, what if we had a box or something, for new scrolls?" The others stared in confusion. "Like, what if one of our students is an aspiring writer and she/he wants other dragons to read their work? So, they write their story and put it in the box and one of us reads it, corrects

errors and approves it, and then we put it in the library for everyone else to read!"

"That's actually not a bad idea." Sunny agreed. "But *still* not worth calling a huge meeting for."

"And," Starflight added. "The first scrolls we put in this way, are us."

"Us?" Clay asked.

"Our story. We'll write down all about our lives and how we fulfilled the 'prophecy'. We'll write our story." he explained.

Firefly was about to explode. You could get your own story published in the school's library? It was amazing. And there were the new scrolls of course, by the D.O.D. themselves. *"Wings of fire"* They were calling the story, and the scrolls didn't touch their shelves for weeks. Firefly would've read them, but she already knew the whole story. So did Squelch, and Coal would never read all five of the scrolls. But he would listen to her read them. It had become a regular thing for her to read scrolls to Coal. He loved it, and she got to read. Win-win. But Coal wasn't always patient with scrolls. She remembered what had happened when they finished *Kana and the scales....*

"And then everything went black." Firefly concluded, closing the scroll.

"*WHAT!?!?*" Coal yelled. A chorus of SHHHHH!'s followed. "But it can't end like that!!!" he insisted, a terrified look on her face. Firefly grinned.

"Oh, but it can." she promised.

"But-" he stammered. "but that's just cruel!! Is there at least another one!? They can't just end it like that, we *have* to know if Kana dies or not!" She was thoroughly enjoying his reaction to this.

"There is a sequel," she admitted.

"Great!" Coal yelled, jumping up from his seat. "Where is it?"

"It's not here." she explained. His face fell and for a moment he looked positively miserable. "It hasn't come out yet." she added. He sank back into his seat, looking devastated.

"Why is the world so cruel?" he asked.

"So," Coal asked, sitting down next to her on the library's only couch. "What are we reading today?" Firefly grinned. Now, if only he'd pay this much attention in class. She glanced down at the title of the scroll she was holding. *Echo,* it was called. She thought for a moment before turning to Coal.

"Today we will be reading a wonderful scroll called *The seven animuses.*" she told him, pretending to read from the scroll.

Moon practically launched herself at her friends in the Prey Center. Unfortunately, she overshot her landing and ended up sailing into the river with a splash.

"Graceful." Joy commented as Moon dragged herself out of the water.

"I have a great idea!" Moon announced, her energy restored.

"We're listening." Qibli promised.

"Hmm," Nightflyer joked. "I foresee that Winter will hate it." They laughed as Winter glared.

"Guys! I'm serious!" Moon exclaimed, causing them to stop. "Okay, you know how there's that spot in the library where you can put your own scrolls in and then other students can read them?" she asked. They nodded. "Well," she said with a grin. "What if we wrote one?" They stared for a moment.

"What if we wrote a scroll?" Seashell questioned. Moon nodded.

"What would we write about?" Nightflyer asked.

"Oh come on, our adventures!" Moon cried. "We can write all about finding Hailstorm, about Queen Scarlet and about Pineapple and about everything!" They thought for a moment.

"Can we use fake names?" Air asked.

"Sure." Moon agreed.

"I'm in." Air promised.

"Me too." Nightflyer seconded.

"Me three!" Joy yelled.

"Me four." Kelp declared.

"Me five." Qibli agreed. .

"Hey, I am six!" Seashell announced. They all looked at Winter. With a long suffering sigh, he spoke.

"Fine." They cheered.

"Wow." Starflight said in shock. The writer's box had only been there for a few days and there were already dozens of scrolls. He had just finished one called *The Seven Animuses* by 'your local magic provider,' whoever that was.

"Starflight, have you read this one?" Clay asked, holding up a thick scroll. "It's called Moon Rising."

"Oh yea, I remember that one. That was really good. Who was it by again?" Starflight asked.

"I don't know." Clay admitted. "It just says by JANSKQMW."

It Isn't Over Yet.

Sunny was slightly concerned at the terrified look on Glory's face as she stepped into the Rainwing's dreams.

"Sunny! Oh thank the moons." Glory exclaimed, pure panic written on her face.

"What's happened?" Sunny asked nervously.

"It's Pineapple." Glory began. "After the Heir's Challenge we had her locked up, but she escaped somehow. And that's not all." Glory paused, green running through her scales. "She killed one of the guards, and she wrote *'The Dragonets Are Next'* on the wall in blood." Sunny froze, her eyes wide.

"Oh no."

Later....

Firefly was walking back to the school. She had just been through another visit with Stonemover. They were discussing her power, and how Firefly planned to use it. She had an idea, but Stoneover had shot it down. She had wanted to heal him, to take away his animus magic so that he'd be back to normal, rather than stone. But he had refused, insisting that he didn't want any spells put on him. Firefly often wondered if there was a secret spell on the necklace that Thorn always wore from him. But she guessed that she'd never know for sure. She turned down an empty hallway, and something scrapped against the stone walls. Firefly frowned and turned. There was no one there. She turned again and kept walking, until someone tackled her to the ground.

Firefly screamed as a fiery-eyed Rainwing came into view and lashed out at her. She tried to defend herself, but she didn't have

much training or any experience with fighting before. The Rainwing clawed at her and all Firefly could do was scream, until talons wrapped around her throat.

"Shut. Up." Pineapple ordered, releasing the dragonet.

"HELP!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!" Firefly shrieked. Pineapple slammed her fist at the Nightwing's head, and everything went dark.

"Firefly!" a faint voice was yelling. "Firefly?!" the voice sounded urgent, panicked even. "FIREFLY!!" Firefly slowly came too, her head pounded and everything hurt. She groaned and the voice sighed with relief. She tried to focus her vision on the blurry figure next to her.

"Coal?" she asked weakly. The figure nodded. Coal was still slightly panicked. He'd heard someone scream and had come running, only to find Firefly being attacked, but the dragon disappeared before he could get to her.

"Can you stand?" he asked. He wasn't sure. She looked awful.

"I'm not sure." Firefly murmured, her voice hoarse from screaming. Gently, Coal helped her up. She stood shakily for a moment before her legs gave out. Coal quickly caught her before she fell.

"Alright, I've got this." he promised. Firefly's eyes widened as he picked her up, bridal -style. She instinctively wrapped her arms around his neck, staring at him in awe. "What?" he questioned with a smirk. "Didn't think I could carry you?"

"Well, for a scrawny dragon, you are very strong." she commented. He grinned, walking her to the infirmary.

Later....

Tsunami, Fatespeaker, and Starflight were calmly grading papers when Clay and Sunny burst into the room.

"We've got a problem!" they said in unison. Tsunami threw her pen at them.

"No!" she rejected it, going back to the papers.

"Tsunami, this is serious!" Sunny declared. "I just finished talking with Glory and apparently, Pineapple escaped and is coming here!"

"She is?" Clay said in surprise. He frowned. "That makes a lot more sense than a rock dragon exploding from the wall."

"What?" Starflight asked.

"Oh, yea, the problem I came to tell you guys about..." Clay remembered. "One of the students got attacked by someone, but the attacker disappeared before we could figure out who it was."

"WHAT!" Tsunami yelled.

"Pineapple." Sunny realized. "Which student was attacked?"

"Are they okay?" Tsunami asked.

"She'll be fine after a few days." Clay promised. Then his face changed and he eyed Starflight nervously. "It was Firefly. She's in the infirmary now."

"What?" Fatespeaker breathed, looking at Starflight. They quickly rushed out of the room. Tsunami sighed.

"Just when we thought we would have a danger-free year." she commented.

A familiar group of friends all glanced up as Coal walked over to them. He seemed distracted as he approached.

"Hey Coal," Air greeted him, recognized the Sandwing as one of Squelch's friends. Qibli nodded at him in greeting. After what happened over the summer, he'd been keeping a closer eye on the former spy. Coal turned his attention to Nightflyer.

"I have a message for you." he insisted. Nightflyer frowned.

"Do tell." he replied. Coal made a face and eyed the others.

"You're not going to like it." he promised, whispering into the Nightwing's ear. Nightflyer jumped to his feet and bolted from the room.

"What did you tell him?" Air questioned.

"It's supposed to be kept quiet, so I can't say." Coal explained, walking away. The others exchanged a glance. What was going on?

.....We Can't Catch A Break. Ever.

Sunny set down the dreamvisitor with a heavy sigh. It seemed as if everything was falling apart. Again. She walked out into the hall and saw Tsunami coming towards her.

"Hey, how are things going with Thorn?" she questioned.

"Not good."Sunny admitted. "The two most powerful gangs in all of the Sandwing kingdom have teamed up together, explosions keep going off, and, icing on the cake, Fierceteeth and Strongwings have escaped."

"Did someone mention cake?" Clay asked, appearing out of nowhere.

"Oh geez. Does Glory know?" Tsunami questioned.

"Yes." Sunny said with a sigh. "And no Clay, we don't have any cake." The Mudwing looked slightly disappointed and walked away.

Despite Coal's secrecy, the others managed to get out of Nightflyer what was going on, and the day that Firefly got out of the infirmary, Pineapple struck again. And then again. Seashell and Squelch were both sent to the infirmary within a week, both having been attacked. The Dragonets of Destiny were at a loss. Where was Pineapple in between these attacks, and why was she attacking these dragonets specifically? After Nightflyer ended up in the infirmary, Starflight figured it out.

"Glory said that the message Pineapple wrote in blood said *'The Dragonets Are Next'*, right?" he questioned. Sunny nodded. "What if she meant our children?"

"What?" Clay said in confusion.

"The dragonets are next. Think about it." Starflight explained. "First Firefly, Then Seashell, Then Squelch, Then Nightflyer. What do all of these dragonets have in common?"

"They're all the children of a dragonet of destiny." Tsunami realized.

"Exactly." Starflight confirmed. "She's going after our dragonets, which means we have a better idea of who is attacked next."

"So, who is it?" Sunny questioned.

"Well, process of elimination, either Kelp, Air, Rainkeeper, or Joy."

Pineapple scowled as her old, familiar, failure of a trainer stepped into her dreams.

"What do you want Fierceteeth?" she demanded.

"How is your task going?" the nightwing questioned. Pineapple scowled again.

"Horribly. I started with that pathetic Nightwing, but someone hear her scream so I had to run before I could finish the job. And then, that stupid Seawing fought back too much that I couldn't knock her out. And that ridiculous Mudwing ran away. Don't even get me started on that putrid older Nightwing though." she explained.

"Well, QUIT FAILING!" Fierceteeth snapped. "Don't you understand the risk here? I need all of those dragonets dead before I try to kill Glory. We only get one chance at that and if it fails, then we both die." Pineapple snorted.

"Please," she snarled. "None of her guards will be any trouble. Especially the Nightwing. I beat him when I was an untrained seven-year old. You can take him down just as easy as a butterfly

could."

"Don't be so sure." Fierceteeth ordered. "That's our problem. You immediately underestimate everyone. That's why you keep losing." Pineapple growled.

"Fine. I'm done failing." she vowed.

Fear is a strange thing. You can be scared, you can be horrified, or you can be terrified. Or, in some rare cases, maybe you're multiple of those three things at once. Nightflyer, Rainkeeper, Squelch, Joy, and Clay were all three. Rainkeeper found it a day after it had been put up. They closed up the Art cave until it was washed away. Many dragons at JMA sat in fear, wondering if they'd be next. What was this all about, you wonder? It started with a missing hybrid, and then it became something horrifying, when Rainkeeper found a message on the Art cave wall. It was written in blood and signing with a picture of two fiery eyes.

If you ever want to see HER alive again, bring me Joy.

Hostage

A/N: Don't worry, I shall spare you the heart-attack cliffhangers in this part :)

Rainkeeper was stunned. He had no idea what to do. Pineapple was around here somewhere, attacking students, Air had been taken hostage, and Joy's life was in danger no matter what. What was he supposed to do? He sighed. One year. He had just wanted ONE normal year at this school. But apparently, the universe had other plans.

Joy paced the room. She knew what she had to do. A note had been left on her bed, telling her a time and place to meet Pineapple- and to come alone. Joy knew that if she didn't go, Air would die. She couldn't let that happen. Air was one of her best friends in the whole world. If she died.... Well, it wouldn't be pretty. Nightflyer would never forgive her if she didn't go through with this, but Rainkeeper wouldn't if she did. It was a nightmare. But she had a plan. A horrible plan that was bound to end miserably, but a plan none the less. But even if it didn't work, at least Air would be safe and sound. Joy sighed. She really had to get better at hiding who was important to her.

Glory was torn. Pineapple had found a way to slam them all between a rock and a hard place. If Joy went through with this, she'd die. But if she didn't, then Clay's daughter would die, and Clay would never forgive her. Glory wanted to scream. She prayed that Joy's plan would work.

Finally the day came. Joy walked down a narrow hallway, the pouch around her neck heavier than normal, for it was filled with chakrams, sleeping darts, and the healing stone; just in case. She entered a large cave and waited. Sure enough, Pineapple faded into view, a smug smirk on her face.

"I thought you might come." she commented. Joy's talons clenched into fists.

"Where is Air?" she demanded. Pineapple flicked her tail and the hybrid was shoved into the room. Joy breathed a short sigh of relief. She was a bit cut up, but other then that, she was alive and fine. Pineapple produced a thin, sharp looking dagger, and grabbed Air, holding the knife against her throat. "Let her go." Joy snapped. "I did what you asked."

"Weapons." Pineapple declared. Air stayed remarkably still, eyeing the dagger. Reluctantly, Joy pulled out the chakrams and the sleeping darts and dropped them on the ground. "Everything." Pineapple insisted. Joy sighed and dropped the healing stone on the pile.

"Very well." she announced, releasing Air. Joy dove at her friend, pulling her away from Pineapple.

"Are you alright?" she asked. Air nodded. "Head back to the school, I'll be there soon." Joy promised. Air hesitated.

"You heard her." Pineapple agreed. Reluctantly, Air left the cave, but waited outside the doorway. "Now it's just you and me." Pineapple commented. Joy smirked.

"On the contrary," she began. "Did you really think I would come alone?" As soon as the word left her mouth, dragons appeared and lunged at Pineapple, shooting sleeping darts at her. Pineapple dodged the guards and missed the darts. Jambu, still in camouflage, shot another dart, which landed triumphantly on Pineapple's neck. She growled and grabbed Joy, stabbing the dagger in the hybrid's abdomen.

"You're a fool, cousin." she snarled.

Joy gasped slightly as Pineapple yanked out the blade. The guards snapped into action, but the sleeping dart had already worked its magic, and Pineapple fell to the ground, unconscious. Jambu caught Joy before she could fall, the stab wound bleeding freely.

"Oh no. Oh no no no." he whispered as Joy's scales went white. Air rushed into the room suddenly and froze at the sight of her friend. No. She couldn't die. She was not allowed to. She glanced frantically around the room as the guards stared in horror. Her eyes landed on the stone and she ran for it before bolting over to her friend.

"Joy," she breathed. Quickly she brushed the stone over the stab wound, partially healing it. The bleeding stopped, but Joy had already fallen into unconsciousness.

Later....

When Joy opened her eyes, she immediately took in all the little things about the dragons surrounding her. There was someone holding her talon. Someone was sitting, anxiously flipping a bloody rock in their talons. Another dragon was watching her, their blue eyes holding an incredible amount of fear. Slowly, her vision focused and she identified the dragons. Uncle Jambu, Air, Kelp, Rainkeeper, Moon, Nightflyer, Qibli, Mangrove and some other guards, Sunny, Seashell and Winter. In her head she smirked slightly at their worried faces.

"Well," she spoke hoarsely. "Aren't I popular."

"You got stabbed." Air corrected.

"Fair point." Joy admitted. "But I'm a bit more upset that I didn't get to smack Pineapple for calling me a fool."

A Walk Of Gossip

A/N: Sorry I haven't been updating much! I started Volleyball and I haven't been able to move.

Everything finally seemed right. Pineapple was locked away in a very secure prison cell on the old Nightwing island, as extra punishment. Fierceteeth had also been caught in the rainforest, and it had been discovered that the two were working together to overthrow Glory.

Surprisingly, Rainkeeper and Joy had laughed when they were told.

Overthrow Glory.

That was the stupidest thing they'd ever heard.

You couldn't 'overthrow' her.

Not while there was a single Rainwing or Deathbringer left alive.

As hard as it was to think about, the year was winding down. Rainkeeper had mixed emotions about this. He didn't really want to leave, and yet he did at the same time. It occurred to him that he was technically an adult now. Not really, but technically. An adult. That meant he could do whatever he wanted! Well, as long as Pear said he could. For some reason, he had to keep getting her permissions before doing something. She didn't ask him to, and yet he did it anyways. Deathbringer did the same thing with Glory, of course, so maybe that's where he got it from. With his head swirling with thoughts, Rainkeeper decided to take a walk. And on this walk, he noticed some things.

Joy and Kelp were walking down the hall, when Macaw showed up,

as usual. He got extremely close to Joy, forcing her to back up against the wall.

"Hello Joy," he said in a husky voice. She winced as his talons brushed over her still healing stab wound.

"You know what?" Kelp began. "I'm *done* with this shit." He grabbed Macaw by the throat and pinned him against the wall, the rainwing's feet not even touching the ground. Joy raised her eyebrows. Macaw yelped and clawed at Kelp's talon, but it didn't do anything. Macaw was weak, and Kelp was strong.

"Here's what's going to happen." Kelp continued, his grip tightening. "You are going to leave Joy alone. Forever. Got it? If I so much as smell you within a mile of her, I *will* kill you. Literally. Now I'm gonna let go, and you're going to bolt out of here like the terrified little chicken you are, and neither of us are ever going to see your ugly face again. Understood?" Macaw nodded, his scales green, his face purple. Kelp released him and he dropped to the floor before sprinting away, clutching his neck. Joy eyed Kelp in a way he'd never seen before.

"What?" he asked, confused.

"That. Was....."she trailed off, still eyeing him. "Hot."

Firefly and Coal also walked down the hall, their talons slightly entwined. As they passed through a hallway, they noticed two dragons leaning against the wall, extremely close to each other. As they passed, they got a better look at the two dragons. Coal recognized them instantly, smothered his laughter and dragged Firefly down another corridor, where they rolled on the floor laughing.

"Well, that didn't take long!" Coal commented. Firefly clutched her stomach, laughing her head off. The two dragons they'd seen had kissed just as they passed. The two dragons were Squelch and Adobe.

And, last but never least, Air and Nightflyer stepped down the hall, and Faithbringer rounded the corner and came towards them.

"Oh no." Nightflyer groaned as they caught sight of her. All he wanted was one nice walk with Air without any interruptions. Was that so much to ask?

"Don't worry, I know how to handle this." Air assured him. He frowned. Was she going to kill Faithbringer? He wasn't sure. Not that he'd *mind*, he just didn't want Air to get arrested or something. Maybe she would kill her. That'd be nice...

"Kiss me." Air said suddenly, snapping him out of his trance.

"Okay, "he agreed, not even questioning it as they kissed. Air grabbed the back of his head, deepening the kiss. Nightflyer's eyes widened. She'd never kissed him like this before. When they finally broke apart, Faithbringer was staring at them, her jaw dropped. Nightflyer was dazed, his eyes wide. Air winked at him and turned to Faithbringer.

"Next time you flirt with him," Air commented. "Remember that he'll have to leave *that* before he dates you." She patted the dragon on her head as she walked by. Nightflyer followed her blindly, still in a daze. Faithbringer growled and stormed away.

Rainkeeper stopped for a moment at the school's entrance. *Geez*, he thought. *A lot of gossip sure goes on in this school.*

The Last Night

[image]

All the students found it hard to believe, but the last day of school was here. And, to celebrate the closing of another year, was the second annual JMA Music Night. Among the rest of the students was our familiar group, deciding who was going to sing, and how they were going to spend the night. A group of tables was pressed against the wall of the room, giving Joy an idea.

"Come on!" Joy yelled as an upbeat song started. She jumped on one of the tables, a huge grin on her face.

"Are you crazy?" Moon asked.

"Definitely." Joy confirmed. She threw her talons up. "Is no one going to dance with me?"

"Well, I'm in!" Kelp announced, climbing up.

"...Why not." Air admitted, climbing up as well. Nightflyer, Qibli, Seashell, and Moon followed. They danced on the tables as the music played, Winter glaring at them from the ground.

"Come on Winnie, it's the last night!" Joy insisted. He scowled.

"Please Winter?" Air asked.

"No." he declared firmly. Moon held out a talon to him.

"Winter," she began. "Dance with me?" He hesitated, glancing back and forth to Moon's outstretched talon and the door.

"One song." he said finally, taking Moon's talon. They cheered as he climbed up.

While they danced on the tabletops most of the night, they still found time to sing, of course. Joy bounced eagerly on stage, pulling Kelp behind her for a duet. Winter groaned as they went on.

"Three camels says they sing a love song," Qibli bet.

"No way. They're gonna sing some stupid pop song." Winter countered. Qibli held out a talon and they shook. Qibli smirked as the song began and Joy started to sing.

https://youtu.be/b2L0Dyj_QOo

"The day we met,
Frozen I held my breath
Right from the start
I knew that I'd found a home for my heart
Beats fast.
Colors and promises
How to be brave?
How can I love when I'm afraid to fall
But watching you stand alone?
All of my doubt
Suddenly goes away somehow"

Winter swore under his breath and Qibli started to laugh, knowing he'd won. Up one stage, Kelp and Joy sand in perfect harmony.

"One step closer,"

Then it went back to Joy, flipping back and forth between the two of them.

"I have died every day waiting for you
Darling don't be afraid I have loved you
For a thousand years
I'll love you for a thousand more"

"Time stands still,

Beauty in all she is"

"I will be brave
I will not let anything take away
What's standing in front of me
Every breath
Every hour has come to this

One step closer

I have died every day waiting for you
Darling don't be afraid I have loved you
For a thousand years
I'll love you for a thousand more

And all along I believed I would find you
Time has brought your heart to me
I have loved you for a thousand years
I'll love you for a thousand more

I'll love you for a thousand more

One step closer
One step closer

I have died every day waiting for you
Darling don't be afraid I have loved you
For a thousand years
I'll love you for a thousand more

And all along I believed I would find you
Time has brought your heart to me
I have loved you for a thousand years
I'll love you for a thousand more

I will love you a thousand years"

Cheers went up, and Kelp smiled shyly at the crowd. Joy grinned as they bolted from the stage. Nightflyer scowled.

"How the hell am I supposed to follow *that?*" he demanded.

"You'll find a way," Air insisted as he walked on stage.

https://youtu.be/pbIiIC6zN68

Nightflyer walked up cautiously and began to sing.

"I wanna follow where she goes

I think about her and she knows it
I wanna let her take control
'Cause every time that she gets close, yeah

She pulls me in enough to keep me guessing, mmm
And maybe I should stop and start confessing
Confessing, yeah

Oh, I've been shaking
I love it when you go crazy
You take all my inhibitions
Baby, there's nothing holdin' me back

You take me places that tear up my reputation
Manipulate my decisions
Baby, there's nothing holdin' me back

There's nothing holdin' me back
There's nothing holdin' me back

She says that she's never afraid
Just picture everybody naked
She really doesn't like to wait
Not really into hesitation

Pulls me in enough to keep me guessing, whoa
And maybe I should stop and start confessing
Confessing, yeah"

Suddenly Nightflyer jumped off the stage and onto the ground, beginning to dance with Air.

"Oh, I've been shaking
I love it when you go crazy
You take all my inhibitions
Baby, there's nothing holdin' me back

You take me places that tear up my reputation
Manipulate my decisions
Baby, there's nothing holdin' me back

There's nothing holdin' me back

'Cause if we lost our minds
And we took it way too far
I know we'd be alright,
Know we would be alright

If you were by my side
And we stumbled in the dark
I know we'd be alright,
I know we would be alright

'Cause if we lost our minds
And we took it way too far
I know we'd be alright,
I know we would be alright

If you were by my side
And we stumbled in the dark
I know we'd be alright,
We would be alright

Oh, I've been shaking
I love it when you go crazy
You take all my inhibitions
Baby, there's nothing holdin' me back

You take me places that tear up my reputation
Manipulate my decisions
Baby, there's nothing holdin' me back

There's nothing holdin' me back

I feel so free
When you're with me,
Baby"

At the last line in the song, Nightflyer let go of Air and spread his arms, falling backwards into the crowd.

"Baby, there's nothing holdin' me back"

The crowd caught him and shoved him upright again as the music cut out. Shouts flooded the room, cheering for Nightflyer as he ran off. As the night came to a close, one last singer approached the stage. Joy and Air froze in surprise at the sight of him.

Rainkeeper wasn't sure what he'd been thinking when he had signed up to sing, but there was no going back now. With a deep breath, he started to sing.

https://youtu.be/88RljKrQnTs

"My best friend gave me the best advice

He said each day's a gift and not a given right
Leave no stone unturned, leave your fears behind
And try to take the path less traveled by
That first step you take is the longest stride

If today was your last day
And tomorrow was too late
Could you say goodbye to yesterday?
Would you live each moment like your last?
Leave old pictures in the past
Donate every dime you have?
If today was your last day

Against the grain should be a way of life
What's worth the prize is always worth the fight

Every second counts 'cause there's no second try
So live like you'll never live it twice
Don't take the free ride in your own life

If today was your last day
And tomorrow was too late
Could you say goodbye to yesterday?
Would you live each moment like your last?
Leave old pictures in the past
Donate every dime you have?
Would you call old friends you never see?
Reminisce old memories
Would you forgive your enemies?
Would you find that one you're dreamin' of?
Swear up and down to Moons above
That you finally fall in love
If today was your last day

If today was your last day
Would you make your mark by mending a broken heart?
You know it's never too late to shoot for the stars
Regardless of who you are
So do whatever it takes
'Cause you can't rewind a moment in this life
Let nothin' stand in your way
Cause the hands of time are never on your side

If today was your last day
And tomorrow was too late
Could you say goodbye to yesterday?

Would you live each moment like your last?
Leave old pictures in the past
Donate every dime you have?
Would you call old friends you never see?
Reminisce old memories
Would you forgive your enemies?
Would you find that one you're dreamin' of?
Swear up and down to Moons above
That you finally fall in love

If today was your last day"

Joy yelled with the crowd as the song ended. Rainkeeper blushed and ran from the stage, leaving it open for one of the teachers to announce that it was time for everyone to head back to their sleeping caves. As all the students headed down the hall, Kelp grabbed ahold of Joy's arm.

"Come with me," he insisted. Joy grinned and followed him away from the school.

Kelp lead her down a narrow hallway, far away from the school, and even far from Stonemover's cave.

"Kelp, where are we going?" she asked. He smiled.

"It's a surprise." he replied excitedly. Her curiosity grew as they kept walking. "Close your eyes," Kelp teased as the reached the end of another hallway. Joy eyed him, but obliged. Even though her eyes were shut, Kelp still snuck up behind her and wrapped his talons over her eyes, just in case. "No peeking," he warned, leading her into a cave. "Aaaaand, open your eyes!" he announced a few moments later.

Joy opened her eyes and gasped. They were in a huge cave with a lake in it. A small waterfall ran through one of the walls, and the whole area was open to the sky.

"Wow," she whispered, looking around. They were standing on a solid floor that was smooth to the touch, perfect for dancing. Large, comfortable looking rocks lined part of the lake's edge, and the water was crystal clear. Kelp was grinning as he took in her awed expression.

"Like it? The Seawings haven't found this one yet, so I figured it could be our place. A secret spot just for the two of us." he explained. Joy turned to face him, a wide smile on her face.

"I LOVE it!" she exclaimed, rushing over to kiss him. Kelp lifted her off her feet and spun around.

"So, what do you want to do first?" he asked. Joy grinned slyly.

"Well," she began. "I've always wondered what it would be like to kiss underwater..."

The Animus Object

Glory was answering questions. The way it worked, was that any dragon that wished to speak with her got in a line. After a certain hour, no more dragons would be allowed in the line. Those that didn't make it had to wait until tomorrow. It was a tiring job, but it had to be done. It was this job that Glory hated more than anything, simply because nothing interesting or worth her time ever happened. It was mainly just long hours of her listening to dragons complain about things she couldn't change. *Especially* with Coconut. Three Moons, that dragonet *NEVER* SHUT UP ABOUT BORING PAPAYAS! But for once, something interesting did happen. For once, a dragon came forward, not with a complaint, but with a gift.

Glory was surprised as Firefly stepped into the room. Usually dragonets never came to her, especially not the daughter of one of her closest friends.

"Firefly," Glory greeted her with a small smile. Why did she look so nervous? Firefly nodded her head and took a deep breath before speaking.

"Your Majesty. I....Well, I'm here for two reasons." she began. "I have to confess something."

"I'm listening." Glory insisted, her curiosity growing.

"I'm an animus." Firefly admitted. Eyes went wide around the room. "And I have enchanted something, but I figured it would be safer in the hands of someone like you rather than me." Glory froze. An animus? *Starflight's* daughter? And she was using her magic? The *last* thing she needed right now was for a five-year old to go Albatross on her.

The guards eyed the queen, wondering how she would handle this.

"Does your father know about this?" Glory questioned.

"He knows that I have the power, but not that I've used it." Firefly explained. Glory nodded. "Very well. And I assume you are aware of the risks of using animus magic?" Firefly nodded.

"Yes. I don't plan on using my power again, but I wanted to do at least one thing with it." she explained.

"Alright. Well then, why don't you show us what you have enchanted?" Glory asked. Firefly held up an emerald, about the size of a dragon's palm.

"It works better in the dark." she began, placing the jewel on the ground. "I call it The Last Goodbye." she continued. "Any dragon can walk up to it and think of a dragon that has died and all they have to do is say the dragon's name while thinking of them, and that dragon's spirit will appear and you will be able to talk to them again for a little while before they have to leave."

Everyone in the room was a statue. This dragonet in front of them created a way to talk to the dead. What.

"And you wish for me to keep this." Glory repeated in disbelief. Firefly nodded and handed her the emerald.

"That's it." Firefly insisted, rushing out of the room. Glory glanced over at Deathbringer, who was staring at the emerald with a nauseous look on his face.

Word spread fast among the gossiping Rainwings and it ran to the Nightwings as well. Clay, Tsunami, and Sunny came rushing to the rainforest and the five Dragonets of Destiny ended up standing in a dark cave, the emerald laying on the ground in front of them.

Starflight paced the cave, in utter shock that Firefly had gone against his wishes. He always thought that Nightflyer was the rebellious one, and he was. Not Firefly. Not sweet, innocent, little Firefly.

What had happened to her that he wasn't aware of?

He didn't ever suspect that all it was, was a scarred Sandwing spy that didn't know how to read.

"Are we really doing this?" Tsunami asked.

"Yes." Sunny confirmed. "We need to." The five of them joined talons for comfort, each of them replaying memories of the same dragon with their eyes closed. Finally Sunny spoke the dragon's name and they all opened their eyes and gasped. It had worked.

"Well," Dune said in surprise. "We sure have a lot to talk about."

The Last Goodbye

"Dune!" Sunny cried, the only one truly excited to see their old guardian again. The others froze momentarily, as if they didn't believe that it had actually worked.

"Hi Sunny," Dune replied, a rueful smile on his face. They were stunned. This was Dune as they had never see him before. He had all of his limbs, and no scars anymore. "I have to admit, I'm surprised that none of you are up here, or Webs, for that matter. You've done well." he insisted.

"Wait, you know everything that's happened?" Tsunami questioned.

"Sort of," Dune explained. "I know everything that happened until after the night you five ended the war. I have no idea what happened after that."

"Well, uh, a LOT happened." Clay said awkwardly.

"They all got married and had families and stuff." Sunny explained. "I'm pretty much the same, just a princess/teacher now. We opened a school!" Dune looked confused.

"Wait.....someone actually married the four of you?" he asked in shock.

"If I could hit you right now, you'd be bleeding." Glory growled.

"Yes. Clay married Kestrel's daughter, Tsunami married Webs's son, Glory married an assassin that was sent to kill her, and I married my own replacement in the prophecy." Starflight offered. Dune stared blankly at them.

"Kestrel had a dragonet?" he questioned. "I'll have to ask her about that." Dune's form slowly got lighter as they spoke with him, until they could barely see him anymore. "I have to go back now," he

realized. His eyes suddenly grew wide. "Wait! Sunny, your mother-Six-Claws! I have to-"

"Don't worry, "Sunny insisted. "I'll make sure you speak with them." And he disappeared from sight. Starflight cautiously picked up the emerald and it hummed slightly, as if begging them to say another name.

Once word got out about this object, dragons came from all over to use it. Dragons came to say goodbye to old family members, to let passed dragons see their children once more, to settle accounts and fights, to forgive and be forgiven. It was insane.

The Dragonets of Destiny used it again, of course.

Tsunami properly spoke with her father,

Starflight met his mother,

Clay brought in his siblings so that they could say a proper goodbye to Crane.

Riptide and Webs went in together to speak with Riptide's mother,

Peril even got to go to see Kestrel again.

Joy and her friends went in to say hi to Carnelian,

Moon finally got to meet her father, something she immediately regretted,

and Sunny stayed true to her word, bringing in her mother and Six-Claws to say goodbye to Dune.

But finally, a night came when no dragons were waiting to see their loved ones again. Glory put the emerald away, to keep it safe, like Firefly had wanted. But it would be used one more time before it was put to rest. Joy snuck in and grabbed the stone, and she and Rainkeeper went to a cave to use it.

"Are you sure we should do this without him?" Joy asked again. She wasn't sure. Rainkeeper nodded.

"I overheard him with Mother. He's too afraid about what he'll hear to use it." he explained. Joy shrugged.

"Okay." she agreed. "Hopefully this will work with just us." They both fell silent, playing thoughts over in their mind before speaking the dragon's name.

"*Who* in the three moons are you and *what* do you want?" Quickstrike demanded.

They stared for a moment, immediately seeing their father's features, and some of their own, in this dragon's face. Quickstrike's face softened slightly at Rainkeeper, undoubtedly spotting his similarity to Deathbringer.

"Um, Hi," Rainkeeper began. "This is going to sound crazy, but, uh, I'm Rainkeeper and this is my sister Joy. We're your grandchildren."

Quickstrike's face held so much emotion it was hard to look at.

"Deathbringer," she whispered, looking near tears. They nodded.

"In case you didn't figure that out yet, he married a Rainwing. Her name is Glory. She's the Rainwing and Nightwing queen." Joy supplied. Quickstrike nodded.

"But why are you here? Why didn't he come himself?" she questioned. Rainkeeper and Joy glanced at each other.

"He's afraid of what you might say." Rainkeeper explained.

"We think it has something to do with how you died." Joy continued.

"He has nothing to be afraid of." Quickstrike insisted. "I'm not surprised that he didn't come, but I figured it was because he was upset with me, not that he blamed himself. Tell you what," she continued, smiling faintly at them. "You go home, and you tell that son of mine that Quickstrike is *ordering* him to get down here and talk to me. And if he refuses, tell him I'll come down here myself and haunt him for life. Got it?" They nodded. "Then go. I'll wait."

They exchanged another glance before running from the cave, wondering how they were going to explain this to their father.

"We are in *so* much trouble," Rainkeeper commented as they ran.

"*You think?!*" Joy yelled.

A/N: Hi readers! Quick Question. Should I end this book in the next part, OR do you want me to skip ahead a few years and write some stuff about Rainkeeper and Pear? You decide!

The Last Bit Of The Story

A/N: BEHOLD! The last part in this book! *sniffles* The sequel shall be beginning hopefully today, but first, we have one last part. I know I am cutting it short a bit, but I have nothing left for this book! So you don't get confused, there is a MAJOR time skip in this part. Like, Rainkeeper and Pear were dragonets in the last part, well, now they're adults. Enjoy!

If you didn't read the little bit up there ^ READ IT BEFORE READING THE REST OF THIS PART!

Rainkeeper stood outside a rainforest hut, leaning over the railing. He was deep in his thoughts, pondering what to do. He and Joy had been out of JMA for years now. They were adults. *He* was an adult. Old enough to make his own decisions, and mature enough to understand them. But why was this choice so difficult? It was simple. Yes, or no? And yet either way was a huge decision. Most dragons got married at eighteen or nineteen, some even at fourteen. Rainkeeper was twenty, so age didn't matter. And yet.... He stared at the small pouch in his talons. Maybe he should get someone else's opinion about this. But that was another problem. Whenever Rainkeeper wanted a second opinion about something, he went to her. But this wasn't something he could ask her about. Not really. But....There was one other option...

Deathbringer stood outside a hut. Glory was having a meeting with Queen Thorn, and it seemed to him that she was always meeting with some other Queen or someone representing a Queen these days.

Something was brewing in Pyrrhia, and it didn't sound good.

Deathbringer glanced over as Rainkeeper landed near him. He'd been strangely quiet lately, not really talking to anyone. But Deathbringer thought he knew why. It was an understandable feeling. Maybe that's why he wasn't surprised at all when

Rainkeeper wanted to talk.

They sat on a Rainwing platform, further away than all the others.

"This is about Pear, isn't it?" Deathbringer questioned.

"How'd you know?" Rainkeeper questioned.

"I know the look," he replied with a grin. "So, do tell." Rainkeeper hesitated.

"I....I want to ask her to marry me." he admitted. Deathbringer smiled.

"I thought you might." he commented slyly.

"But what if she says no?" Rainkeeper asked. "Or if she just laughs and doesn't take it seriously? Or what if she still thinks of me as more of a friend than-" Deathbringer stared as he listed dozens of potential problems, each of them growing more ridiculous than the last.

"Rainkeeper," he began, cutting his son off. "None of those crazy things are going to happen. You love her, right?"

"Of course!"

"And she loves you?"

"Yes,"

"Then *what* is the problem?" Deathbringer asked. Rainkeeper opened his mouth to speak, but then froze.

"I've been completely overthinking this entire thing, haven't I?"

"Yes." Deathbringer confirmed. "Just like your mother."

A few days later, Rainkeeper found himself walking in the forest with Pear. He kept glancing at her and smiling. She looked so peaceful, trailing her talons over the trees they passed, her blue eyes bright with happiness. He sighed slightly. She was perfect.

"Hey Pear?" he began, noting that they were close to their favorite tree in the forest. It was their favorite because it had a closed area that was nothing but strong vines and branches under their talons and rainbow colored light shining through the thick leaves that closed it off from the rest of the forest.

"Yes?" Pear replied, glancing at him with a shy smile. He grinned. Over sixteen years he had known her, and yet she was still a mystery to him.

"I have to ask you something." he admitted.

"What is it?," she asked curiously.

"You'll have to catch me to find out!" he announced, running towards their tree.

"Rainy!" she laughed, rushing after him.

They climbed up the tree, laughing just like they did as dragonets, until they reached the closed area. Rainkeeper spun around, searching for her so he could run when she caught up. But then he was tackled to the ground.

"Aha!" Pear yelled, resting triumphantly on top of him. Her talons were holding onto his shoulders, keeping him pinned to the ground. "Now, ask your question!" she declared, leaning over slightly so that their faces were barely inches apart. Rainkeeper laughed slightly.

"Will you marry me?" he asked. Pear smiled from ear to ear and kissed him.

"Of course I will."

A/N: Because Having 94 Parts Annoyed Me

The title explains why this part exists at all.

SEQUEL OFFICIAL!!!

The sequel is to be called:

Listen, And The Stars Shall Speak.

Because I couldn't think of a better title.

Anyways! This is the ACTUAL last part of Just A Little Glorybringer For Ya, Not Kidding this time :) :(

I just want to say THANK YOU!!!! to all my readers! You've supported me so much through this story and your comments make me happy! I love how much you love my characters!!! *cough* Especially Joy, I think she's your favorite *cough*

Just want to say an extra thank you to some people with this book, so....

THANK YOU-

cursing my brain for forgetting everyone else I wanted on this list

Well, you know what, YOU KNOW IF YOU BELONG ON MY EXTRA THANK YOU LIST AND IF YOU DO, THANK YOU!

.....That's it. Now I end this part and click complete. *single tear*

throws glitter

TO THE SEQUEL!!!!!